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HISTORY

OF

VERNON COUNTY,

WISCONSIN,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL, CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN,

EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF ITS TERRITORIAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

ILLUSTRATED.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1884.

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 549
Seattle, Wash. 98111

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Nineteen Hundred Seventy Five

TO THE PIONEERS

OF

VERNON COUNTY

THIS VOLUME IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

WITH THE HOPE THAT YOUR VIRTUES MAY BE EMULATED AND YOUR TOILS AND SACRIFICES DULY APPRECIATED BY COMING GENERATIONS.

PREFACE.

The importance of local history is appreciated to-day more than ever before. A general desire is being manifested by the people to preserve the records made by the pioneers. Old Settlers' Associations and Historical Societies are being organized in almost every city and county throughout the land. The interest in local history is not confined, as some suppose, to men of second and third rate ability, but men like Hon. John Wentworth, Hon. E. B. Washburn, Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, and others of that class, show as much interest in pioneer reminiscences and the various little incidents that go to make up the record of a new country, as could be shown by any who think the world is comprised in that scope of territory in their own immediate neighborhood. Hon. Daniel Durkee, Librarian Wisconsin State Historical Society, has delivered a lecture, which has been printed and scattered broadcast throughout the land, urging the people to perpetuate their local history, and every county history that is published is purchased by him for that institution, of which he is Librarian. In that vast library of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, no historical works are more referred to than the local histories of the various counties of the States of the Union.

Believing that the county of Vernon afforded material for a good history, the Union Publishing Company of Springfield, Illinois, sent a corps of experienced historians into the field under the supervision of Prof. C. W. Butterfield with instructions to spare no pains in compiling a complete and reliable work. As preliminary to the work, and in order to insure correctness and a work in which every citizen of the county might feel a just pride, committees were appointed to read and revise the general history of each county, and a like committee in each township to examine and correct the history of their respective townships. With but one or two exceptions, every man thus appointed served to the best of his ability, and the wisdom of the choice of the committees is shown in the work performed. We feel confident that we here present to our patrons a history that is correct as possible for human beings to make it. Special care has been taken in its compilations, hundreds of men and women being interviewed, and every source of in-

formation canvassed that facts alone should be incorporated in it. The manuscript was then read to the committees, and time given to make such corrections as they deemed necessary, and each member was urged to exercise care, and not be backward in making such corrections or such suggestions as might be deemed necessary to insure correctness and add to the value of the work. Our thanks are certainly due to these men, a number of whom spent much time, with no thought of reward than that received in the consciousness of a duty well performed. Among others specially entitled to our thanks are: Henry Casson, Jr., Capt. D. W. C. Wilson, Judge W. F. Terhune, Capt. R. S. McMichael, John R. Casson, James E. Newell, N. C. Nichols, Hon. C. M. Butt, P. J. Layne, Col. Earl M. Rogers, Hon. H. P. Proctor, Hon. O. B. Wyman, Rev. John Whitworth, William Haughton and others. Every county officer, and every deputy employed in the various offices showed a perfect willingness and an earnest desire to aid us in obtaining information.

The press of the county is also entitled to our special gratitude. Without an exception, we have received the kindest treatment from each newspaper, their files being placed at our disposal, and from which we obtained much of the information contained in this volume

In conclusion, we will say that our work is done; the History of Vernon County is placed in your hands. We trust that you will be pleased with it.

Yours Truly,

UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.
PRE-HISTORIC AND SETTLEMENT	17
First Exploration of the Northwest	18
Wisconsin visited by fur traders and Jesuit missionaries	19
Founding of Jesuit missions in Wisconsin	20
Wisconsin under French domination	21
Wisconsin under English supremacy	23
Wisconsin as a part of the Northwest Territory	25
Wisconsin as a part of the Territory of Indiana	27
Wisconsin as a part of Illinois Territory	29

CHAPTER II.

	PAGE
WISCONSIN AS A TERRITORY	34
Secretaries	35
United States Attorneys	35
United States Marshals	35

CHAPTER III.

WISCONSIN AS A STATE	42

HISTORY OF VERNON COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
AREA, POSITION AND SURFACE FEATURES	69
Area	69
Geographical Position	69
General Surface Features	70
Mississippi River	71
The Baraboo River	72
The Kickapoo River	73

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	73
Geological Formation	77

CHAPTER III.

ANCIENT INHABITANTS	79
The Mound Builders	79
The Indians	80
The Sioux	81
The Sacs and Foxes	81
The Winnebagoes	83

CHAPTER IV.

EARLY EXPLORATIONS	86
Expedition of Michael Accau	86
Expedition of Duluth	87
The Mississippi visited by Le Sueur	87
Perrot's voyage to the West	87
Le Sueur again on the Mississippi	87
La Perriere builds a fort on Lake Pepin	87
The journey of Jonathan Carver	88
Observations by Major Pike	92

CHAPTER V.

THE WINNEBAGO WAR	91
Murder of Gagnier and Lipcap	92
A Winnebago debauch	92
First battle of Bad Ax	93
Great alarm upon the border	93
Arrival of Government Troops	94
De Kauray's imprisonment	95

CHAPTER VI.

THE BLACK HAWK WAR	95
Battle of Stillman's Run	95
Battle of Pecatonica	96
Pursuit of Black Hawk	96
Battle of Wisconsin Heights	101
Black Hawk pursued to the Mississippi	103
Battle of Bad Ax	105
Official report of the battle	106

CHAPTER VII.

PAGE

UNITED STATES LAND SURVEYS..... 107
How Vernon County was surveyed..... 108
Civil Towns and surveyed Townships..... 109
Area of each Township..... 109
Dates of surveys and notes of surveyors..... 110
Land Districts..... 113
Wisconsin Land District..... 114
La Crosse Land District..... 115
La Crosse Land Office..... 115

CHAPTER VIII.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTY..... 116
The First Settlers..... 116
Vernon County in May, 1847..... 117

CHAPTER IX.

PIONEER LIFE..... 118
The Log Cabin..... 118
Pioneer Furniture..... 119
Primitive Cookery..... 119
Primitive Threshing..... 120
Going to Mill..... 120
Wild Animals..... 121

CHAPTER X.

FIRST THINGS..... 122
First preaching in the county..... 123
First Church organized..... 123

CHAPTER XI.

FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY 124
Bad Ax County..... 125
Origin of "Bad Ax" unknown..... 129
Unpopularity of "Bad Ax"..... 130
Changing the name to Vernon..... 131
Efforts to form a new county..... 135

CHAPTER XII.

TERRITORIAL, STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION..... 136
Territorial..... 136
State..... 136
Congressional..... 137
Members of Congress..... 138

CHAPTER XIII.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT..... 138
County Commissioners..... 145
Supervisors again..... 147
County Buildings..... 160
Matrimonial..... 160
Abstract of Assessment Rolls..... 163

CHAPTER XIV.

CIVIL SUB-DIVISIONS OF VERNON COUNTY..... 164

CHAPTER XV.

THE COURTS OF VERNON COUNTY..... 168
The Circuit Court..... 168
The Battle of Kickapoo..... 176
County Court..... 183

CHAPTER XVI.

THE BAR OF VERNON COUNTY..... 183
The Bar of the Past..... 184
The present Bar..... 192

CHAPTER XVII.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION..... 196
Wisconsin's First Efforts..... 196
The State Aroused..... 198
Vernon County Awakened..... 198
First War Meeting..... 199
War Meeting in De Soto..... 200
Company I, Sixth Regiment..... 200
Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers..... 201
Iron Brigade..... 202
PAGE
Company C, Eighteenth Regiment. "Bad Ax Tigers"..... 203
Eighteenth Wisconsin Volunteers..... 204
Twenty-fifth Regiment..... 208
Vernon County's Roll of Honor..... 210
In Memoriam..... 217
Pensioners in Vernon County..... 218
Company B, Fiftieth Regiment..... 220
Early Mention of the War..... 222
The Brave at home..... 225

CHAPTER XVIII.

PIONEER REMINISCENCES..... 227
Royal C. Bierce..... 227
Mrs. Cyrus D. Turner..... 234
Flora De Frees Weeden..... 238

CHAPTER XIX.

ELECTION RETURNS..... 240

CHAPTER XX.

COUNTY REPRESENTATION..... 253
Treasurer..... 253
Register of Deeds..... 255
County Clerk and Clerk of Circuit Court..... 256
Clerk of the Circuit Court..... 257
County Clerk or Clerk of the Board of Supervisors... 257
Sheriff..... 258
County Superintendent of Schools..... 263
County Surveyor..... 265
County Judge..... 266
District Attorney..... 267
Coroner..... 267

CHAPTER XXI.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION..... 268
VILLAGE OF VIROQUA..... 268
Town of Viroqua..... 270
HILLSBOROUGH TOWN..... 270
BLOOMINGDALE..... 271
ONTARIO..... 271
ROCKTON..... 271
TOWN OF WEBSTER..... 271
SEELYBURG..... 271
SPRINGVILLE..... 271
DE SOTO..... 271
VICTORY..... 271
TOWN OF STERLING..... 271
NEWTON..... 272
CHASEBURG..... 272
GENOA..... 272
READSTOWN..... 272
ONTARIO..... 273

CHAPTER XXII.

AGRICULTURE AND THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY..... 274
Vernon County Agricultural Society..... 275

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE PRESS..... 279
Northwestern Times..... 276
The Western Times..... 281
Vernon County Censor..... 281
Viroqua Expositor..... 286
De Soto Republican..... 288
De Soto Leader..... 288
Vernon County Herald..... 288
Vernon County Leader..... 289

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE GREAT TORNADO—JUNE 28, 1865..... 292
"Brick" Pomeroy's Report..... 292
Statement of Dr. E. W. Tinker..... 298
Account written by D. W. C. Wilson..... 299
What happened to Mrs. W. R. Purdy..... 300
W. F. Terhune's Recollection..... 300
Statement of H. M. Isham..... 302
Nathan Coe's Narrative..... 302
John Dawson's Account..... 303
Charles C. Brown's Recollection..... 304
Recollections of R. C. Bierce..... 305
A. L. Russell's Statement..... 308

CHAPTER XXV.

PAGE
PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED HISTORICAL SKETCHES. 310
From the Western Times, Sept. 6, 1856 ... 310
By George Gale, ... 310
From the Milwaukee Sentinel, November, 1860 ... 315
By Dr. Lansing, in The Lansing Chronicle, February, 1869 ... 317
Lute A. Taylor, in the La Crosse Leader, July, 1870 ... 318
By G. W. Nuzum and John R. Casson, 1875 ... 319
By W. F. Terhune, 1878 ... 320
From the De Soto Republican, 1870 ... 323

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS ... 325
Vernon County once Sioux Territory ... 325
Why the Fox Indians left the lower Wisconsin ... 327
Concerning the Fox Indians ... 328
Treaties with the Sac and Fox Indians and the Winnebagoes ... 329
A sequel to the great Indian Treaty of 1829 ... 333
The Winnebagoes in 1816 ... 338
The Winnebagoes in 1818 ... 338
Up the Mississippi in 1819 ... 339
War between the Sac and Foxes and the Sioux ... 341
Daniel M. Parkinson's Recollections of the Winnebago war ... 344
James H. Lockwood's account of the Winnebago War ... 345
An interesting event of the Winnebago War ... 354
Last act in the Winnebago War ... 356
Indians upon the Mississippi in 1825 ... 357
Up and down the Mississippi before the Black Hawk War ... 369
After the battle of Bad Ax ... 375
Capture of Black Hawk and the Prophet ... 379
Death of Black Hawk ... 382
Western Wisconsin in 1836 ... 384

CHAPTER XXVII.

POETS AND POETRY ... 389
The Indian ... 389
Sunshine in Winter ... 390
A Wish ... 390
'Twas only a Shell ... 391
John Brown ... 391
Summer Song ... 391
Mount Reno ... 392

CHAPTER XXVIII.

SCHOOLS OF VERNON COUNTY ... 393
Original School Code ... 393
Agitation for Free Schools ... 394
The School System under the State Government ... 394
Development of Schools in Vernon County ... 395
School Houses ... 396
Examination of Teachers ... 398
County Supervision ... 398
Prosperity of the Schools ... 399
General Statistics ... 400

CHAPTER XXIX.

VARIOUS THINGS ... 401
A Pioneer incident ... 401
Census of 1847 ... 401
The Methodist Episcopal Church from 1851 to 1859 ... 401
An Aerolite ... 407
Death of Moses Decker ... 408
Starting a paper under difficulties ... 408
The Buckeye on fire ... 408
What was it? ... 409
Wild cats and wolves ... 409
A call for facts ... 409
Bears ... 409
Climatology of Vernon county ... 409
Geological history of the underlying formations of Vernon county ... 415
An early deed for Vernon county real estate ... 418
An Indian scare ... 418
Town of Bad Ax ... 420
Extracts from the "Record of the proceedings of the Crawford county board" ... 420
Early roads in Vernon county ... 423
Agriculture in the Vernon county region ... 423
First white men in Vernon county ... 424
PAGE
An account of their voyage up the Mississippi ... 429
Early experience in the northwest ... 431
Thomas G. Anderson ... 473

CHAPTER XXX.

TOWN OF BERGEN ... 477
Early Settlements ... 477
First Things ... 479
Organic ... 479
Postoffices ... 479
Religious ... 479
Educational ... 479
Cemeteries ... 479

CHAPTER XXXI.

TOWN OF CHRISTIANA ... 480
Early Settlements ... 480
Early Events ... 481
Organic ... 481
Postoffices ... 482
Mill ... 482
Educational ... 482
Religious ... 482
Cemeteries ... 484
VILLAGE OF WESTBY ... 484
Case of Murder ... 484
Biographical ... 485

CHAPTER XXXII.

TOWN OF CLINTON ... 491
Early Settlement ... 491
First Events ... 495
Organic ... 495
Educational ... 495
Religious ... 496
Cemeteries ... 497
Mills ... 497
VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE ... 498
VILLAGE OF PRESTONVILLE ... 498
Biographical ... 499

CHAPTER XXXIII.

TOWN OF COON ... 505
Settlement ... 505
First Events ... 505
Organic ... 505
Schools ... 506
VILLAGE OF COON VALLEY ... 506
Postoffice ... 507

CHAPTER XXXIV.

TOWN OF FOREST ... 508
Early Settlement ... 508
First Things ... 508
Organic ... 509
Religious ... 509
Educational ... 509
Postoffices ... 509
Cemeteries ... 510
Personal Sketches ... 510

CHAPTER XXXV.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN ... 516
Early Settlement ... 516
Organic ... 517
Schools ... 517
Religious ... 518
LIBERTY POLE ... 518
Cemeteries ... 519
Biographical ... 519

CHAPTER XXXVI.

TOWN OF GENOA ... 527
Early Settlement ... 527
First Events ... 528
Organic ... 528
Schools ... 528
Religious ... 528
Postoffices ... 528
VILLAGE OF GENOA ... 528
Cemeteries ... 531
Biographical ... 531

CHAPTER XXXVII.

PAGE

TOWN OF GREENWOOD 536
Early Settlement 536
First Events 538
Organic 538
Schools 538
Religious Societies 539
Hansberry's Mill 540
Cemeteries 540
Biographical 540

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

TOWN OF HAMBURG 551
Early Settlement 551
Organic 551
Religious 552
Schools 552
Cemeteries 552
VILLAGE OF CHASEBURG 552
Business Directory 553
Biographical Sketches 553

CHAPTER XXXIX.

TOWN OF HARMONY 555
Early Settlement 555
First Things 556
Organic 556
Religious 556
Educational 557
Postoffices 557
Cemeteries 557
Mills 557
VILLAGE OF NEWTON 557
Personal 557

CHAPTER XL.

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH 562
Settlement 562
First Events 564
Organic 567
Schools 567
School Statistics 568
United Brethren Church 568
Cemeteries 568
Trippville Postoffice 569
VILLAGE OF HILLSBOROUGH 569
Business Interests 570
Religious 571
Biographical 572

CHAPTER XLI.

TOWN OF JEFFERSON 580
Early Settlers 580
First Things 581
Organic 582
Postoffices 582
Educational 582
Religious Organizations 582
Mills 585
VILLAGE OF SPRINGVILLE 585
Various Manufactories 586
Cyclone 588
Fish Ponds 588
Cemeteries 588
Biographical 588

CHAPTER XLII.

TOWN OF KICKAPOO 600
Early Settlement 600
Organic 605
VILLAGE OF READSTOWN 605
VILLAGE OF KICKAPOO 607
Educational 607
Personal 609

CHAPTER XLIII.

TOWN OF LIBERTY 621
First Settlement 621
Early Events 624
Organic 624
Schools 625
Religious 625
Cemeteries 625
Liberty Postoffice 625
Mills 625
Mounds 625
Biographical sketches 625

CHAPTER XLIV.

TOWN OF STARK 628
Early Settlement 628
Early Events 629
Organic 629
Schools 629
Religious Societies 630
Cemeteries 631
VILLAGE OF STAR 631
Biographical 631

CHAPTER XLV.

TOWN OF STERLING 644
Early Settlement 644
Early Events 646
Organic 646
Educational 646
Churches 647
Cemeteries 648
Postoffices 648
Grand Forks Neighborhood 649
Personal 649

CHAPTER XLVI.

TOWN OF UNION 664
First Settlers 664
Early Events 666
Organic 666
Schools 666
Religious 667
Discontinued Postoffices 667
Cemeteries 667
Sketches of Prominent Citizens 667

CHAPTER XLVII.

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF VIROQUA 675
Early Days 675
Business Development 677
Banks 684
Hotels 684
Educational 686
Viroqua Postoffice 686
Fraternal Societies 687
Religious 688
Incorporation 693
TOWN OF VIROQUA 694
Early Settlement 694
Religious 694
Educational 695
Organic 696
Biographical Sketches 696

CHAPTER XLVIII.

TOWN OF WEBSTER 720
Early Settlement 720
Organic 721
First Things 721
Educational 721
Religious 721
Postoffices 722
Mills 722
VILLAGE OF AVALANCHE 722

CHAPTER XLIX.

TOWN OF WHEATLAND 724
Settlement 724
First Events 725
Organic 725
Religious Societies 726
Schools 726
Red Mound Postoffice 726
Cemeteries 726
VILLAGE OF DESOTO 726
Churches 731
Societies 733
Disastrous Fires 734
Oldest Shoemaker in America 734
VILLAGE OF VICTORY 734
Personal Histories 736

CHAPTER L.

	PAGE
TOWN OF WHITESTOWN	744
Early Settlement	744
Organic	747
Record of First Events	747
Religious	747
Educational	748
Postoffices	748
Cemeteries	748
VILLAGE OF ONTARIO	748
Business Directory for 1884	748
Reminiscence of Nathan Culver	749
Postoffice	750
Societies	751
Mills	751
VILLAGE OF ROCKTON	751
Business Directory for 1884	751
Secret Societies	751
Postoffice	752
Biographical	752

CHAPTER LI.

	PAGE
HONORABLE MENTION	760
Gen. Jeremiah M. Rusk	760
William F. Terhune	772

CHAPTER LII.

	PAGE
MISCELLANEOUS	774
Postoffices and Postmasters in Bad Ax county, in 1856 and 1859	774
Postoffices and Postmasters in Vernon county in 1883	774
Changes in Viroqua	774
Number of dwellings in Vernon county in 1870	775
Personal	775
Married	775
Mrs. R. C. Bierce	775
Henry Nichols	775
Hiram De Lap	776
Population of Vernon County according to the State and Federal Census	776
Population of Vernon County in 1880, according to sex, nativity and color	776
Population of Vernon County, in 1870, by towns	776
Census of Vernon County, for 1880, by towns and villages	776
Hon. Henry Chase	777
Monument Rock	777
James R. Savage	777
"The last shall be first"	777
APPENDIX	780

BIOGRAPHICAL.

	PAGE
Abbott, Prentiss	541
Abrams, Belus Shepherd	661
Adams, D. W	501
Adams, Josiah	609
Adams, L. G. P	594
Adler, Casper	752
Aiken, Lorin A	561
Aikins, John W	713
Alderman, E. S	496
Alexander, Forest W	517
Allen, Hartwell	559
Allen, James	720
Allen, John Wesley	577
Allen, Josiah F	738
Allen, J. W	254
Allen, Martin F	589
Allison, Daniel P	255
Amunson, H	598
Anderson, John	549
Anderson, John H	632
Anderson, Lewis	618
Anderson, Thomas G	473
Appleman, Jesse	499
Appleman, John W	499
Armbruster, Ambrose	570
Arntzen, Ole	756
Aumock, Philip	633
Austin, William	186
Babcock, John D	742
Bacon, William	640
Bailey, James M	258-527
Bailey, Robert	544
Bakken, Andrew	498
Ballsrud, Christian H	488
Barge, John	635
Barrie, David	610
Bass, Elijah	514
Bates, Paul	639
Bay, Reinhold	479
Beal, Charles	577
Beavers, W. F	265
Bellows, Hiram	660
Benn, Henry	614
Bennett, John M	257
Bennett, Van S	755
Berggum, John O	485
Bergh, E. C	490
Bergh, M. C	485
Betts, Charles G	575
Bickford, I. B	689
Biddison, Philip	523
Bierce, Royal Clifton	186
Blake, I. W	713
Bolstad, Arne J	663
Bond, Joseph S	626
Bouffleur, Philip	594
Bowman, William	711
Brandon, Hugh	542
Bratlie, Erick C	489
Breidung, Johann	754
Brice, John	589
Brice, Samuel	589
Brody, Patrick	495
Brown, Charles	532
Brown, C. C	712
Brown, T. B	261
Brown, William P	723
Bryan, Adam	633
Brye, Peter O	553
Buchanan, R. H	624
Burlingame, A	758
Burns, Andrew	526
Bush, George W	524
Buswell, H. Parker	559
Butcher, Robert	667
Butt, C. M	194
Cade, John Wesley	661
Cade, Thomas	520
Calkins, David	555
Carlyle, Adam	736
Carpenter, Amos	641
Carpenter, John	534
Carr, C. M	513
Carter, W. N	193
Cary, Philip W	503
Casson, Henry Jr	245
Casson, John R	258
Castle, B. J	288
Chase, Arvin	736
Chase, Henry	553
Chase, Henry A	269
Chesbro, Lorenzo F	671
Christopherson, Chris	488
Church, John W	623
Claney, James	614
Claney, John	614
Clarke, C. Edward	717
Clark, George C	742
Clarke, George H	717
Clarke, Robert P	716
Clark, William P	258
Clawater, William	521
Clayson, J. W	535
Clements, William	525
Coe, Nathan	696
Coffin, Peleg	725
Cole, John J	189
Collins, Brightman	646
Collins, John	542
Cone, Isaac	651
Conner, Henry	684
Conway, William	578
Cook, James A	697
Cooke, James A	253
Cooper, Joshua A	742
Couper, James C	572
Corey, Adelbert S	611
Cory, Albert	272
Cowen, Jesse	560
Cox, Edward	531
Cox, William	524
Creviston, James	595
Crook, William	615
Culver, Elvarus	753
Culver, Nathan	749
Curry, H. A	627
Curry, John W	255
Curry, Samuel Russell	501
Cushman, James M	610
Cushing, William	738
Dach, Jacob	522
Davis, Jesse L	658
Davis, John C	740
Davis, Miles G	591
Davis, Samuel	591
Davis, Samuel	651
Dawson, John	702
Decker, Moses	676
De Frees, Thomas J	184
De Jean, Anson W	634
De Jean, Thomas	634
De Lacy, Patrick	734
Delaney, Jesse	515
Demings, Jedediah	616
Dennis, George	717
De Witt, Thomas P	722
Dickson, James	500
Dickson, John	499
Dickson, John S	500
Dixon, William	668
Doerr, Adam	593
Dolen, William	502
Douglass, Elisha D	572
Drake, Lyman C	617
Drake, Reuben	611
Dunlap, Rufus	676
Dustin, J. S	661
Dyson, C. W	504
Eastman, John B	668
Edson, Seth	612
Egleson, Even	551
Ellefson, Christian	525
Engh, Engrebret	478
Engler, Christian	584
Enochson, Enoch	722
Estes, Samuel	609
Favor, Daniel W	705
Favor, Jerome	593
Favor, Jonathan	593
Ferguson, B. F	718
Field, Albert	573
Field, Walter S	193
Finstad, Lars	553
Flanagan, Thomas	614
Flick, John	581
Forbes, Stewart	563
Fopper, John	533
Foreman, James	612
Forsyth, Henry Clay	194
Fortney, C. C	517
Fortney, Daniel T	611
Fortney, John	521
Fortney, Ole	612
Fosdick, William	738
Foster, James	696
Fourt, Charles S	661
Fransen, Christian	757
Frazier, William	591
French, Noah E	740
Gaines, Levi R	713
Gale, George	174
Gardner, John	253
Garrett, Jesse	702
Gauper, Ole	662
Geddes, William	613

PAGE

Getler, Ferdinand 525
Getter, William 659
Gibbs, Simeon 657
Gillett, Rufus 258
Gilman, James B 660
Glassborn, Alfred 588
Glenn, Isaiah 721
Glenn, Jason 703
Gochenour, Harrison 718
Goode, William 261
Goodell, E. S 706
Goodell, Merchant 706
Gott, William A 269
Graham, Carson 190
Graham, Lameh 588
Graham, John 580
Graves, Charles W 195
Gray, Samuel 636
Green, Amos W 711
Greenman, J. W. 254
Griffin, G. W 255
Groves, I. M 594
Groves, J. W 701
Groves, William C 623
Guist, John 557
Gullord, Ole Peterson 551
Guscetti, Ferdinand 532

Haflich, Henry 573
Hage, Engebret P 560
Hall, Ralph 711
Hamilton, George W 672
Hamilton, J. I 270
Hamilton, N. W 527
Hamilton, Seth 590
Hammer, Otto, Sr 570
Hammer, Otto F 540
Hammond, John J 716
Hanson, Andrew 591
Hanson, H 506
Hanson, Hans 492
Hanson, Hans 758
Hanson, Lars 486
Harris, C. N 191
Harris, Edward 666
Harris, J. E 596
Harris, Richard J 513
Harris, William 596
Hartshorn, George W 405
Haughton, William 263
Hay, Peter 698
Hayden, Alvin M 657
Hayes, John 591
Heal, Stephen G 738
Healy, Patrick 564
Heinrich, Heinrich 756
Hektoen, P. P 714
Henderson, John 523
Henry, Marvin 700
Henry, Oscar S 524
Hermonson, Hermon 490
Herrick Gilbert 603
Herron, William A 590
Hewey, James H 262
Hicok, Hiram A 702
Hickok, Thomas J 546
Higgins, Jacob 520
Hill, Vilentia B 562
Hinkst, Michael 519
Hodge, William A 740
Hollingstad, Charles 499
Hopkins, Albert H 610
Hopkins, Henry B 616
Hornby, James 703
Hornby, Robert 521
Horton, D. W 559
Hosmer, Addison A 730
Houghton, E. B 271
Houghton, Edmund 731
Hoverson, Knudt 524
Hoverson, S 589
Hoyt, Joseph W 552
Hunt, Cyrus 662
Hurd, John 689
Hurd, J. Alanson 643
Hutchison, B. C 616
Hutchison, William 617

PAGE

Ingersoll, C. L 288
Jackson, G. F 597
Jackson, W. H 599
Jacobson, Rev. O 483
Jager, Ernest C 488
James, Thomas 592
Jenness, John S 500
Jerman, Thomas 703
Johnson, Albert 652
Johnson, Andrew 490
Johnson, Andrew J 523
Johnson, Christopher N 651
Johnson, David 578
Johnson, Jacob 507
Johnson, Ole 254
Johnson, Robert 652
Johnston, William 558
Joseph, H. C 265
Joseph, Lemuel 265
Jordan, Moses 537
Jordan, T. S 670

Kauffman, Abraham 545
Kegley, Elias 538
Kellaud, O. O., Jr 699
Kerr, Hugh 669
Kile, James 515
Kimball, Moses 564
Knapp, Henry 501
Knower, W. H 266-528
Kuehn, Albert F 533

Lacy, George 573
Lake, John R 615
Lamb, Anthony 747
Lamb, Ransom 517
Landrum, Charles 564
Larkie, August 561
Larson, Hans 723
Larson, Hans K 485
Larson, Helge 615
Lathrop, John 514
Lathrop, Napoleon B 515
Latshaw, Alexander 741
Latta George 617
Latta, Josiah 617
Lawrence, Thomas 725
Lawton, Chauncey W 632
Layne, James H 704
Layne, Newton May 190
Layne, P. J 257
Lee, Henry L 546
Lee, Lars Hanson 516
Lier, Simon P 507
Lincoln, S. C 255
Lind, Edward 255
Lind, Henry 546-576
Lindeman, W. F 706
Lisso, Joseph 478
Longley, John 253
Lowrie, Alexander 262
Lowrie, James 254
Lowrie, J. P 595
Lowrie, William 595
Lowrie, W. W 261
Ludwig, Carl 574
Lyttle, C 742

Maddin, Patrick 576
Mahr, David 542
Mallow, Adolphus P 550
Manhart, Joseph 563
Markle, J. C 554
Marshall, J. J 514
Masterson, John 491
Maxwell, James 590
May, Alonzo F 598
May, Reuben 598
May, William J 598
McAuley, H. W 185-735
McAuley, R. M 736
McCartey, J. J 618
McClurg, John 707
McClurg, J. Booth 659
McConnell, William T 707
McCollough, John 516
McGrath, John 636

PAGE

McGrath, Timothy 636
McGrath, Timothy W 636
McKie, N 715
McKitrick, A, James 671
McKitrick, Samuel 257
McLees, John M 558
McMichael, Robert S 687
McMichael, Samuel 265
McMichael, William C 256
McSharey, James 603
McVey, Eli 632
Medary, T. C 288
Mellen, Peter J 653
Mellen, S. A 271
Michelet, John 486
Millard, Henry 643
Millard, O. H 753
Miller, H. P 273
Miller, Reuben 545
Milligan, Robert 665
Millison, Levi 643
Miner, P. D 657
Minor, John H 662
Minor, Thomas 662
Minor, Watson W 663
Mitchell, Erastus 574
Mockett, Robert S 640
Mohs, Augustus 576
Mollinger, John 570
Monti, Mathew 534
Moody, Hiram 707
Moody, Nathan E 708
Moore, James 639
Morgan, George W 715
Morgan, Henry H 739
Morley, Calvin 704
Morley, Calvin E 262
Morris, C. H 579
Morrison, Nathaniel 712
Morse, William A 592
Morterud, Christian A 502
Mullin, David G 550
Mutch, James 573

Naperud, Torger Nelson 487
Naprud, Elias H 697
Nelson, Einer 549
Nelson, Hans 487
Neperud, John A 506
Nesting, Ole Evenson 507
Newman, Alfred W 182
Newman, D. B 271
Newell, James Evans 192
Newton, Andrew 560
Newville, Abram 526
Nichols, Henry 678
Nichols, Marshall C 701
Nixon, A. M 594
Nixon, Irvin C 640
Nixon, R. S 594
Norris, John 492
Nuzum, George W 732
Nuzum, Isaac F 732

Oakes, E. L 534
Officer, E. C 591
Older, A. H 186
Olson, Christian C 651
Olson, Frederick 615
Olson, Hans 486
Olson, Knudt 551
Olson, Lars 559
Orrison, Hiram 632
Osborn, Marion 497
Ott, Charles 532
Ott, John 531
Otteson, Solfast 659
Outland, William 665
Owen, Pearly J 503

Parker, Joseph O 635
Parker, Robert 642
Parr, John 501
Parsch, Frank 478
Patterson, Robert 555
Paulsen, Soren 489
Peterson, Knudt 526

PAGE

Peterson, N. Christian 526
Peaslee, Isaac 651
Peck, P. Melvin 663
Pelton, Ezra O 642
Phillips, W. F 757
Pierce, Lorenzo A 184
Pickerael, Elisha W 267
Pinch, Francis I 579
Pitcher, Charles W 267
Poff, C. M 272
Poff, J. M 504
Pollard, S. R 262
Poorman, Isaac D 670
Poorman, Jacob N 671
Porter, Henry G 735
Potts, Jonathan 499
Potter, E 635
Powell, Elijah 528
Prentice, George 753
Preus, H. N 255
Priest, D. B 191-284
Proctor, Alfred 741
Proctor, H. P 195
Pugh, William 605
Pulham, William 532
Puls, Christian 658
Pulver, Wendell H 698
Purdy, William S 189-698

Rabbitt, Lemuel S 626
Radcliff, Rev. L. L 263
Read, Daniel 600
Reed, Ellis 596
Reiter, Charles 739
Rentz, Michael 599
Revels, John 513
Rhinehart, Horace A 545
Richards, J. B 270
Riley, Aaron 704
Riley, William S 533
Roberts, Benjamin 510
Robinson, H. A 267
Rogers, Benjamin 618
Rogers, C. E 261
Rogers, Earl M 712
Rodgers, J. C 514
Rogers, James H 737
Rudie, Nels J 699
Rundlett, J. R 270
Rusk, Allen 621
Rusk, James 268
Rusk, Jeremiah M 760

Sabin, David 671
Sacket, N. A 595
Salts, Milam 576
Salts, William F 574
Sandon, Elbert W 756
Sandon, Robert 754
Sandon, William 752
Sangstad, Even T 487
Saxton, A. B 589
Saxton, Norris W 589
Seal, John H 534
Seely, Dempster 639
Schnell, Fred 578
Schneider, Philip 609
Schœnberger, John 659
Schooley, J. H 268
Schreiner, J. K 718
Shattuck, George W 641
Shaw, Joel T 737
Shaw, John 514
Shaw, L. N 563
Shear, Isaac 575
Shear, Peter 577
Shear, Thomas J 576
Sheets, John 596
Sheets, William V 596
Shisler, Elias 531
Shreve, Caleb 540
Shreve, Hezekiah 543
Shreve, James H 543
Shreve, John S 541
Shreve, William 543
Shreve, William Smith 541
Sidyie, Thomas 653

	PAGE
Silbaugh, Edward	702
Silbaugh, Jacob	705
Sims, Samuel	477
Slack, Nathan J	581
Small, John, Sr	636
Small, John, Jr	636
Smith, Ananias	699
Smith, Charles E.	616
Smith, D. T	657
Smith, James C	500
Smith, Samuel	640
Smith, William	581
Smith, William	523
Smith, Zachariah	613
Soloi, Ole E	525
Somerby, J. A	282
Southwick, Milton	520
Spellum, John C	700
Spencer, John	723
Sperry, G. S	271
Spurrier, Green	265
Staley, John	544
Stark, Ethan A	718
Starner, Jonathan	642
Steadman, M. W	744
Steenson, Steen	757
Steinmetz, Philip F	672
Stelting, Dederick	510
Stelting, Frederick	513
Stelting, William C	513
Stephenson, Stephen	701
Sterling, Harvey	649
Sterling, Le Grant	650
Sterling, Lewis	261
Stevens, Ira	735
Stevenson, James	528
Stevenson, John	559
Stevenson, William	533
Stoddard, V. A	758
Storer, Robert	626
Stout, Stanley	623
Strang, Edmund	233
Strawn, David	714
Struthers, William	555
Sudduth, John H	268
Suttle, H. J	270
Swain, George A	268–519
Swain, George W	553
Swan, L. P	506
Tainter, Anson	516
Tate, John	625
Tate, J. Henry	715
Tate, Robert	625
Tederick, William H	752
Tenney, Jeremiah T	739
Terhune, William F	772
Tewalt, Solomon W	650
Thompson, Andrew T	652
Thompson, Ellis P	597
Thompson, Lewis	658
Thompson, Luther	525
Thompson, Sever	613
Thompson, Thomas	700
Thoreson, Torger	560
Thorp, I. F	265
Tilton, Elijah	714
Tilton, Simeon H	714
Timerman, Hiram	755
Tinker, Elisha W	268
Tinker, Jerome S	705
Tollefson, O	718
Tollefson, Louis	195
Torgar, Ole T	522
Towner, Frank M	715
Tripp, Dier N	572
Trott, Benjamin	730
Turner, H. L	621
Turner, William	623
Upham, Charles H	742
Vance, Alexander	650
VanWagner, Felix K	523
Vumback, John H	626
Wakefield, Adelbert	654
Wakefield, Leonard	654
Wakeman, Gaylord S	503
Wakeman, William	503
Walker, Perry	755
Walker, Samuel	754
Wallar, Frank A	262
Walloe, J. L	270
Ward, Cincinnatus	624
Watterman, Carlos F	577
Waters, Clark	593
Waters, Isaac	581
Waters, W. S	593
Watson, Samuel	544
Weaver, Alfred	515
Weber, Henry	654
Weber, Nicholas	653
Webster, William	272
Weeden, Henry G	268
Welch, Michael	708
Wells, John H	515
Westby, Ole T	489
Westrum, Arnt	663
White, French B	652
White, Giles	752
White, John W	737
White, W. S	255
Whitworth, John	705
Widmer, Arnold	758
Wigdahl, Peter	627
Wilkinson, Mons S	627
Willey, Froland	564
Williams, Benjamin	526
Wiliams, Clarke D	711
Williams, Howard D	711
Williams, Israel	708
Williams, Roger	578
Williamson, George	590
Wilson, De Witt Clinton	290
Winslow, Aaron	270
Winslow, L. B, T	575
Winsor, Ora	758
Wise George W	623
Wisel, Orin	256
Wolfe, G. W	287
Wood, C. L	596
Wood, Jonathan	596
Wood, L J	596
Wright, J. N	263
Wyman, O. B	193
Yakey, D. C	500
Zabolie, Albert	535
Zink, John	478

PORTRAITS.

	PAGE
Bennett, Van S	331
Blake, I. W	709
Bouffleur, Philip	295
Conner, Henry	691
Ellefson, Chris	313
Frazier, William	584
Frazier, Mrs. Pluma	585
Graham, Carson	223
McLees, John M	547
McMichael, R. S	259
Millard, O. H	745
Morterud, Christian A	493
Nichols, Marshall C	151
Nixon, Irvin C	277
Proctor, H. P	169
Sandon, Robert	205
Sterling, Le Grant	656
Sterling, Laura A	657
Terhune, William F	133
Tollefson, Louis	187
Tripp, Dier N	565

General Committee Vernon County.

We the undersigned members of the committee appointed to revise and correct the general chapters of the History of Vernon County, certify that we have examined the same and have made all the corrections and additions that we, in our judgment and to the best of our recollection, deem necessary, and as corrected we approve and are satisfied with the same. Viroqua, Nov. 16, 1883. [Signed.] P. P. Hektoen, H. Nelson, D. W. C. Wilson, Wm. F. Terhune. } Committee.

Town Committees.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by the old settlers, for the purpose of correcting the history of our respective towns for the History of Vernon County, hereby certify that the manuscript has been submitted to us and that we have made such additions and corrections as we, in our judgment, deem necessary, and that as corrected, we to the best of our recollection, consider it a true history and approve of the same:

Committe names with townships alphabetically arranged:

E. C. Dudley,
William Patterson,
—*Bergen Town.*

Ole Niarison,
Peter M. Johnson,
—*Coon Town.*

Chris. Morterud,
—*Clinton Town.*

C. H. Ballsrud,
John Mitchelet,
—*Christiana Town.*

Nathan Sherman,
Mrs. Emma Sherman,
—*Forest Town.*

Thomas Cade,
Michael Hinkst,
—*Franklin Town.*

Matthew Monti,
William L. Riley,
—*Genoa Town.*

P. Abbott,
James H. Shreve,
—*Greenwood Town.*

George Swain,
Ole Johnson,
—*Hamburg Town.*

Hartwell Allen,
David Calkins,
—*Harmony Town.*

D. N. Tripp,
Albert Field,
—*Hillsborough Town.*

Alfred Glassborn,
Lameh Graham,
—*Jefferson Town.*

Philip Schneider,
Thomas Flanagan,
—*Kickapoo Town,*

H. L. Turner,
Allen Rusk,
—*Liberty Town,*

Le Grant Sterling,
A. Vance,
—*Sterling Town.*

Eli McVey,
Dempster Seeley,
—*Stark Town.*

George H. Eastman,
Robert Butcher,
—*Union Town.*

J. E. Newell,
Wm. F. Terhune,
R. S. McMichael,
—*Viroqua Town.*

Isaiah Glenn,
Wm. P. Brown,
Oliver Brian,
—*Webster Town,*

A. Carlyle,
Alex. Latshaw,
John W. White,
D. A. Steele,
—*Wheatland Town.*

O. White,
Wm. Sandon,
O. H. Millard,
—*Whitestown Town.*

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN.

CHAPTER I.

PRE-HISTORIC AND SETTLEMENT.

AT a remote period there lived in this country a people now designated mound builders. Of their origin nothing is known. Their history is lost in the lapse of ages. The evidences, however, of their existence in Wisconsin and surrounding States are numerous. Many of their earth works—the so-called mounds—are still to be seen. These are of various forms. Some are regularly arranged, forming squares, octagons and circles; others are like walls or ramparts; while many, especially in Wisconsin, are imitative in figure, having the shape of implements or animals, resembling war clubs, tobacco pipes, beasts, reptiles, fish and even man. A few are in the similitude of trees.

In selecting sites for many of their earth works, the mound-builders appear to have been influenced by motives which prompt civilized men to choose localities for their great marts; hence, Milwaukee and other cities of the west are founded on ruins of pre-existing structures. River terraces and river bottoms seem to have been favorite places for these mounds. Their works are seen in the basin of the Fox river, of the Illinois, and of Rock river and its branches, also in the valley of the Fox river of Green bay, in that of the Wisconsin, as well as near the waters of the Mississippi. As to the object of these earth works, all knowledge rests upon conjecture alone. It is generally believed that some were used for purposes of defense, others for the observance of religious rites and as burial places.

In some parts of Wisconsin are seen earth works of a different character from those usually denominated "mounds." These, from their supposed use, are styled "garden beds." They are ridges or beds about six inches in height, and four feet in width. They are arranged methodically and in parallel rows. Some are rectangular in shape; others are in regular curves. These beds occupy fields of various sizes, from ten to a hundred acres.

The mound builders have left other evidences besides mounds and garden beds, to attest their

presence in this country, in ages past. In the Lake Superior region exist ancient copper mines, excavations in the solid rock. In these mines have been found stone hammers, wooden bowls and shovels, props and levers for raising and supporting mass copper, and ladders for descending into the pits and ascending from them.

There are, also, scattered widely over the country, numerous relics, evidently the handiwork of these pre-historic people; such as stone axes, stone and copper spear-heads and arrow heads, and various other implements and utensils. As these articles are frequently discovered many feet below the surface of the ground, it argues a high antiquity for the artificers. These relics indicate that the mound builders were superior in intelligence to the Indians. None of their implements or utensils, however, point to a "copper age" as having succeeded a "stone age." They all refer alike to one age, the indefinite past; to one people, the mound builders.

There is nothing to connect "the dark backward and abysm" of mound-building times with those of the red race of Wisconsin. And all that is known of the savages inhabiting this section previous to its discovery, is exceedingly dim and shadowy. Upon the extended area bounded by Lake Superior on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, wide-spreading prairies on the south, and the Mississippi river on the west, there met and mingled two distinct Indian families, Algonquins and Dakotas. Concerning the various tribes of these families, nothing of importance could be gleaned by the earliest explorers; at least, very little has been preserved. Tradition, it is true, pointed to the Algonquins as having, at some remote period, migrated from the east, and this has been confirmed by a study of their language. It indicated, also, that the Dakotas, at a time far beyond the memory of the most aged, came from the west or southwest, fighting their way as they came; that one of their tribes once dwelt upon the shores of a sea; but when and for what purpose they left their home for the country of the great lakes there was no evidence. This was all. In reality, therefore, Wisconsin has no veritable history ante-dating its discovery by civilized man. The country has been heard of, but only through vague reports of savages.* There were no accounts at all, besides these, of the extensive region of the upper lakes; while of the valley of the upper Mississippi, nothing whatever was known.

FIRST EXPLORATION OF THE NORTHWEST.

The history of Wisconsin commences with the recital of the indomitable perseverance and heroic bravery displayed by its first visitant, John Nicolet. An investigation of the career of this Frenchman shows him, at an early age, leaving his home in Normandy for the new world, landing at Quebec in 1618, and at once seeking a residence among the Algonquins of the Ottawa river, in Canada, sent thither by the governor to learn their language. In the midst of many hardships, and surrounded by perils, he applied himself with great zeal to his task. Having become familiar with the Algonqnin tongue, he was admitted into the councils of the savages.

The return of Nicolet to civilization, after a number of years immured in the dark forests of Canada, an excellent interpreter, qualified him to act as government agent among the wild western tribes in promoting peace, to the end that all who had been visited by the fur-trader might remain firm allies of the French. Nay, further: it resulted in his being dispatched to Nations far beyond the Ottawa, known only by heresay, with whom it was believed might be opened a profitable trade in furs. So he started on his perilous voyage. He visited the Hurons, upon the Georgian bay. With seven of that Nation, he struck boldly into wilds to the northward and westward never before visited by civilized man. He paddled his birch canoe along

*Compare Champlain's *Voyages*, 1632, and his map of that date; Sagard's, *Histoire du Canada*: Le Jeune *Relation*, 1632.

the eastern coast of Lake Huron and up the St. Mary's Strait to the falls. He floated back to the Straits of Mackinaw, and courageously turned his face toward the west. At the Sault de Ste. Marie, he had—the first of white men—set foot upon the soil of the northwest.

Nicolet coasted along the northern shore of Lake Michigan, ascended Green Bay, and finally entered the mouth of Fox river. It was not until he and his swarthy Hurons had urged their frail canoes six days up that stream, that his western exploration was ended. He had, meanwhile, on his way hither, visited a number of tribes; some that had never before been heard of by the French upon the St. Lawrence. With them all he smoked the pipe of peace; with the ancestors of the present Chippewas, at the Sault; with the Menomonees, the Winnebagoes, the Mascoutins, in what is now the State of Wisconsin; with the Ottawas, upon the Manitoulin Islands, and the Nez Perces, upon the east coast of Lake Huron. He made his outward voyage in the summer and fall of 1634, and returned the next year to the St. Lawrence. He did not reach the Wisconsin river, but heard of a "great water" to the westward, which he mistook for the sea. It was, in fact, that stream, and the Mississippi, into which it pours its flood.

"History cannot refrain from saluting Nicolet as a distinguished traveler, who, by his explorations in the northwest, has given clear proofs of his energetic character, and whose merits have not been disputed, although, subsequently, they were temporarily forgotten." The first fruits of his daring were gathered by the Jesuit fathers, even before his death; for, in the autumn of 1641, those of them who were among the Hurons at the head of the Georgian bay of Lake Huron, received a deputation of Indians occupying the "country around a rapid [now known as the 'Sault de Ste. Marie'], in the midst of the channel by which Lake Superior empties into Lake Huron," inviting them to visit their tribe. These "missionaries were not displeased with the opportunity thus presented of knowing the countries lying beyond Lake Huron, which no one of them had yet traveled;" so Isaac Jogues and Charles Raymbault were detached to accompany the Chippewa deputies, and view the field simply, not to establish a mission. They passed along the shore of Lake Huron, northward, and pushed as far up St. Mary's strait as the Sault, which they reached after seventeen days' sail from their place of starting. There they—the first white men to visit the northwest after Nicolet—harrangued 2,000 Chippewas and other Algonquins. Upon their return to the St. Lawrence, Jogues was captured by the Iroquois, and Raymbault died on the 22d of October, 1642,—a few days before the death of Nicolet.*

WISCONSIN VISITED BY FUR TRADERS AND JESUIT MISSIONARIES.

Very faint, indeed, are the gleams which break in upon the darkness surrounding our knowledge of events immediately following the visit of Nicolet, in what is now the State of Wisconsin. That the Winnebagoes, soon after his return, made war upon the Nez Perces, killing two of their men, of whom they made a feast, we are assured.* We also know that in 1640, these same Winnebagoes were nearly all destroyed by the Illinois; and that the next year, the Pottawattamies took refuge from their homes upon the islands at the mouth of Green bay, with the Chippewas.† This is all. And had it not been for the greed of the fur trader and the zeal of the Jesuit, little more, for many years, probably, would have been learned of the northwest. However, a questioning missionary, took from the lips of an Indian captain‡ "an account of his having, in the month of June, 1658, set out from Green Bay for the north, passing the rest of the summer and the following winter near Lake Supe-

* History of the discovery of the northwest by John Nicolet in 1634, with a sketch of his life, by C. W. Butterfield, Cincinnati. Robert Clarke & Co., 1881.

* Le Jeune, Relation, 1636.

† Col. Hist. New York ix, 161.

‡ Not "captive," as some local histories have it.

rior ; so called in consequence of being above that of Lake Huron. This Indian informed the Jesuit of the havoc and desolation of the Iroquois war in the west; how it had reduced the Algonquin Nations about Lake Superior and Green bay. The same missionary saw at Quebec, two Frenchmen who had just arrived from the upper countries with 300 Algonquins in sixty canoes, laden with peltries. These fur traders had passed the winter of 1659 on the shores of Lake Superior, during which time they made several trips among the surrounding tribes. In their wanderings they probably visited some of the northern parts of what is now Wisconsin. They saw at six days' journey beyond the lake toward the southwest, a tribe composed of the remainder of the Hurons of the Tobacco Nation, compelled by the Iroquois to abandon Mackinaw and to bury themselves thus deep in the forests, that they could not be found by their enemies. The two traders told the tales they had heard of the ferocious Sioux, and of a great river upon which they dwelt—the great water of Nicolet. Thus a knowledge of the Mississippi began to dawn again upon the civilized world."*

The narratives of the Indian captain and the two Frenchmen induced further exploration two years later when Father Rene Menard attempted to found a mission on Lake Superior, with eight Frenchmen and some Ottawas. He made his way in 1660 to what is now Keweenaw, Mich. He determined while there to visit some Hurons on the islands at the mouth of Green bay. He sent three of his companions to explore the way. They reached those islands by way of the Menominee river, returning to Keweenaw with discouraging accounts. But Menard resolved to undertake the journey, starting from the lake with one white companion and some Hurons ; he perished, however, in the forest, in what manner is not known, his companion reaching the Green bay islands in safety. White men had floated upon the Menominee, so that the northeastern part of what is now Wisconsin, as well as its interior by Nicolet in 1634, had now been seen by civilized white man†.

* History Northern Wisconsin, p. 39.

FOUNDING OF JESUIT MISSIONS IN WISCONSIN.

In August, 1665, Father Claude Allouez embarked on a mission to the country visited by Menard. Early in September he had reached the Sault de Ste. Marie, and on the first day of October, arrived in the bay of Chegoimegon, at a village of Chippewas. Here he erected a chapel of bark, establishing the first mission in what is now Wisconsin to which he gave the name of the Holy Spirit. While Allouez had charge of this field, he either visited or saw, at Chegoimegon, scattered bands of Hurons and Ottawas ; also Pottawattamies from Lake Michigan, and the Sacs and Foxes, who lived upon the waters of Fox river of Green bay. He was likewise visited by the Illinois, and at the extremity of Lake Superior he met representatives of the Sioux. These declared they dwelt on the banks of the river "Messipi." Father James Marquette reached Chegoimegon in September, 1669, and took charge of the mission of the Holy Spirit, Allouez proceeding to the Sault de Ste. Marie, intending to establish a mission on the shores of Green bay. He left the Sault Nov. 3, 1669, and on the 25th, reached a Pottawattamie cabin. On the 2d of December he founded upon the shore of Green bay the mission of St. Francis Xavier, the second one established by him within what are now the limits of Wisconsin. Here Allouez passed the winter. In April, 1670, he founded another mission; this one was upon Wolf river, a tributary of the Fox river of Green bay. Here the missionary labored among the Foxes, who had located upon that stream. The mission, the third in the present Wisconsin, he called St. Mark.

In 1671 Father Louis Andre was sent to the missions of St. Francis Xavier and St. Mark, as a co-worker with Allouez. At what is now the

† Bancroft, in his History of United States, evidently mistakes the course pursued from Keweenaw, by Menard.

village of DePere, Brown Co., Wis., was located the central station of the mission of St. Francis Xavier. This mission included all the tribes inhabiting the vicinity of Green bay. A rude chapel, the third one within the present limits of Wisconsin, was soon erected. Allouez then left for other fields of labor; but Andre remained here, working with zeal during the summer of 1671. However, during a temporary absence his chapel was burned, but he speedily erected another. Then his dwelling was destroyed, but although he erected another, it soon shared the same fate. He was at this time laboring among the Menomonees. When he finally left "the bay tribes" is not known. In 1676 Father Charles Albanel was stationed at what is now DePere, where a new and better chapel was erected than the one left by Andre. In 1680 the mission was supplied by Father James Eryalran, who was recalled in 1687. When he left, his house and chapel were burned by the Winnebagoes. It was the end of the mission of St. Francis Xavier. The mission of the Holy Spirit was deserted by Father James Marquette in 1671. It was the end for 170 years of a Roman Catholic mission at Chegoimegon.

WISCONSIN UNDER FRENCH DOMINATION.

In the year 1671, France took formal possession of the whole country of the upper lakes. An agent, Daumont de St. Lusson, was dispatched to the distant tribes, proposing a congress of Indian Nations at the Falls of St. Mary, between Lake Huron and Lake Superior. The principal chiefs of the Wisconsin tribes were gathered there by Nicholas Perrot. When all were assembled, it was solemnly announced that the great northwest was placed under the protection of the French government. This was the beginning of French domination in what is now Wisconsin. The act of Daumont de St. Lusson, at the Falls of St. Mary, in 1671, in establishing the right of France to the regions beyond Lake Michigan, not being regarded as sufficiently definite, Nicholas Perrot, in 1689, at the head of Green bay, again took possession of the country, extending the dominion of New France, not only over the territory of the upper Mississippi, but "to other places more remote;" so that then, all that is now included within the boundaries of the State of Wisconsin (and much more) passed quietly into the possession of the French king.

No fur-trader or missionary, no white man, had as yet reached the Mississippi above the mouth of the Illinois river. But the time for its exploration was at hand. Civilized men were now to behold its vast tribute rolling onward toward the Gulf of Mexico. These men were Louis Joliet and James Marquette. Joliet came from Quebec, having been appointed by the government to "discover" the Mississippi. He found Marquette on the north side of the straits of Mackinaw, laboring as a missionary among the Indians. The latter was solicited and readily agreed to accompany Joliet upon his expedition.* The outfit of the party was very simple: two birch-bark canoes and a supply of smoked meat and Indian corn. They had with them five white men. They began their voyage on the 17th day of May, 1673. Passing into Lake Michigan, they coasted along its northern shore, and paddled their canoes up Green bay and Fox river to the portage. They then crossed to the Wisconsin, down which they floated, until, on the 17th of June, they entered the Mississippi. After dropping down the river many miles, they returned by way of the Illinois and Lake Michigan to Green bay, where Marquette remained to recruit his strength, while Joliet returned to Quebec to make known the extent of his discoveries.

Fontenac's report of Joliet's return from a voyage to discover the South sea, dated Nov. 14, 1674, is as follows:

"Sieur Joliet, whom Monsieur Talon advised me, on my arrival from France, to dispatch for

* That Count Fontenac, governor of New France, and M. Tolon, intendant, should have expressed a wish to Joliet that Father Marquette be invited to accompany him in his contemplated journey, is to be inferred from the words of the missionary; *but nothing in the orders of these officers to Joliet is found to confirm the statement.*

the discovery of the South sea, has returned three months ago, and discovered some very fine countries, and a navigation so easy through the beautiful rivers he has found, that a person can go from Lake Ontario and Fort Fontenac in a bark to the Gulf of Mexico, there being only one carrying place, half a league in length, where Lake Ontario communicates with Lake Erie. These are projects which it will be possible to effect when peace shall be firmly established and whenever it will please the king to prosecute these discoveries. Joliet has been within ten days' journey of the Gulf of Mexico, and believes that water communications could be found leading to the Vermilion and California seas, by means of the river that flows from the west [the Missouri] into the grand river [the Mississippi] that he discovered, which runs from north to south, and is as large as the St. Lawrence opposite Quebec.

"I send you by my secretary the map he has made of it, and the observations he has been able to recollect, as he has lost all his minutes and journals in the shipwreck he suffered within sight of Montreal, where, after having completed a voyage of twelve hundred leagues, he was near being drowned, and lost all his papers and a little Indian, whom he brought from those countries. These accidents have caused me great regret. Joliet left with the fathers at the Sault de Ste. Marie, in Lake Superior, copies of his journals; these we cannot get before next year. You will glean from them additional particulars of this discovery, in which he has very well acquitted himself."

It is not known that the copies of Joliet's journals, mentioned in Frontenac's report, were delivered to the French government; but an account of the voyage by Marquette was published in 1681 by Thevenat. This fact has caused an undue importance to be attached to the name of the missionary in connection with the discovery of the Mississippi, and at the expense of the fame of Joliet.*

Explorations begun by Joliet were continued. La Salle, in 1679, with Father Louis Hennepin, coasted along the western shore of Lake Michigan, landing frequently. The return of Henry de Tonty, one of La Salle's party, down the same coast to Green bay, from the Illinois, followed in 1680. The same year, Father Hennepin from the upper Mississippi, whither he had gone from the Illinois, made his way across what is now Wisconsin, by the Wisconsin and Fox rivers to Green bay.*

He was accompanied by Daniel Greysolon Duluth, who, on his way down the Mississippi had met Hennepin in September, 1678. Duluth left Quebec to explore, under the authority of the governor of New France, the region of the upper Mississippi, and establish relations of friendship with the Sioux and their kindred, the Assiniboines. In the summer of 1679 he was in the Sioux country and early in the autumn of that year at the head of Lake Superior holding an Indian council. In June, 1680, he set out from that point to continue his explorations. Going down the Mississippi he met with Hennepin, as stated above, journeyed with him to the Jesuit station, near the head of Green bay, across what is now the State of Wisconsin. Following the voyages of Hennepin and Duluth was the one by Le Sueur, in 1683, from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, ascending that river to the Sioux country in the region about St. Anthony, and his subsequent establishment, said to have been in 1693, at La Pointe, in the present Ashland Co., Wis. He was, at least, a *voyageur* stationed at Chegoimegon during that year. He continued to trade with the Sioux at intervals to the year 1702.†

*"The Count of Frontenac," says Shea (Wis Hist. Coll., Vol. VII, page 119), "on the 14th of November, [1674] in a dispatch to Colbert announced the successful issue of Joliet's expedition;" but Shea then adds: "They had to wait for full details till the account drawn up by Father Marquette should be sent down," as though such an account was really expected; but the fact was, as stated by Fontenac himself, that copies of Joliet's journals were what was looked for.

*Hist. of Northern Wis., page 44.

†Ibed.

Nicholas Perrot was again in the northwest in 1684. He was commissioned to have chief command, not only "at the bay," but also upon the Mississippi, on the east side of which stream, at the foot of Lake Pepin, he erected a post. Here he spent the winter of 1685–6. The next year he had returned to Green bay. He vibrated between Montreal and the west until 1697. In 1699 St. Cosme and his companions coasted along the west shore of Lake Michigan. Other explorations followed, but generally in the tracks of previous ones. Except at "the bay," there was not so long as the French had dominion over the northwest, a single post occupied for any length of time by regular soldiers. This post was called Fort St. Francis. There were other stockades—one at La Pointe in 1726, and, as we have already seen one upon the Mississippi; but neither of these had cannon. At the commencement of the French and Indian War, all three had disappeared. At the ending of hostilities, in 1760, there was not a single vestage of civilization within what are now the bounds of Wisconsin, except a few vagrant Frenchmen among the Indians; there was no post; no settlement, west of Lake Michigan. But before dismissing the subject of French supremacy in the northwest, it is proper to mention the hostility that for a number of years existed between the Fox Indians and Frenchmen.

In the year 1693, several fur-traders were plundered by the Fox Indians (located upon Fox river of Green bay), while on their way to the Sioux; the Foxes alleging that the Frenchmen were carrying arms to their ancient enemies. We hear no more of their hostility to the French until early in the spring of 1712, when they and some Mascoutins, laid a plan to burn the fort at Detroit. It was besieged for nineteen days by these savages, but the besiegers were obliged finally to retreat, as their provisions had become exhausted. They were pursued, however, and near Lake St. Clair suffered a signal defeat at the hands of M. Dubisson and his Indian allies. The Marquis de Vaudreuil, now that the Foxes continued their hostilities, determined on a war of extermination against them. De Lourigny, a lieutenant, left Quebec in March, 1716. He made his way with alacrity, entering Green bay and Fox river, it is said, with a force of 800 French and Indians, encountering the enemy in a pallisaded fort, which would have been soon reduced had not the Foxes asked for peace. Hostages were given, and Lourigny returned to Quebec. In 1721 the war was renewed, and in 1728 another expedition was organized against these savages, commanded by Marchemd de Ligněry. This officer proceeded by way of the Ottawa river of Canada and Lake Huron to Green bay, upon the northern shore of which the Menominees, who had also become hostile were attacked and defeated. On the 24th of August, a Winnebago village on Fox river was reached by De Lignery with a force of 400 French and 750 Indians. They proceeded thence up the river to the home of the Foxes, but did not succeed in meeting the enemy in force. The expedition was a signal failure. But the march of Neyon de Villiers, in 1730, against the Foxes, was more successful, resulting in their defeat. They suffered a loss of 200 killed of warriors, and three times as many women and children. Still the Foxes were not humbled. Another expedition, this time under the direction of Capt. De Noyelle, marched against them in 1735. The result was not decisive. Many places have been designated upon Fox river as points where conflicts between the French and their allies, and the Foxes and their allies took place; but all such designations are traditionary and uncertain. The Sacs and Foxes finally became connected with the government of Canada, and during the French and Indian War were arrayed against the English.

WISCONSIN UNDER ENGLISH SUPREMACY.

On the 9th day of September, 1760, Governor Vaudreuil surrendered Canada to General Amherst, of the British army, and the supremacy

over the northwest passed from France to Great Britain. But in what is now Wisconsin there was little besides savages to be affected by the change. The vagrant fur-trader represented all that there was of civilization west of Lake Michigan. Detroit was soon taken possession of; then Mackinaw, and finally, in 1761, a squad of English soldiers reached the head of Green bay, to garrison the tumble-down post, where now is Fort Howard, Brown Co., Wis. This was on October 12 of the year just mentioned. Lieut. James Gorrell and one sergeant, one corporal and fifteen privates constituted the "army of occupation" for the whole country west of Lake Michigan from this time to June 21, 1763, when the post was abandoned by the commandant on account of the breaking out of Pontiac's War, and the capture of the fort at Mackinaw by the savages. The cause of the war was this: The Indian tribes saw the danger which the downfall of the French interests in Canada was sure to bring them. They banded together under Pontiac to avert their ruin. The struggle was short but fierce—full of "scenes of tragic interest, with marvels of suffering and vicissitude, of heroism and endurance;" but the white man conquered. The moving incidents in this bloody drama were enacted to the eastward of what is now Wisconsin, coming no nearer than Mackinaw, but it resulted in the evacuation of its territory by British troops, who never after took possession of it, though they continued until 1796 a nominal military rule over it after Mackinaw was again occupied by them.

No sooner had the soldiers under Gorrell left the bay than French traders seized upon the occasion to again make it headquarters for traffic in furs to the westward of Lake Michigan. Not that only, for a few determined to make it their permanent home. By the year 1766 there were some families living in the decayed Fort Edward Augustus and opposite thereto, on the east side of Fox river, where they cultivated the soil in a small way and in an extremely primitive manner, living, now that peace was again restored, very comfortably. Of these French Canadians, no one can be considered as the pioneer—no one is entitled to the renown of having first led the way, becoming, therefore the first settler of the State, much less the father and founder of Wisconsin. It was simply that "the bay," being, after Pontiac's war, occupied by Canadian French fur-traders, their station finally ripened into a permanent settlement—the first in Wisconsin—the leading spirits of which were the two Langlades, Augustin and Charles, father and son. It had all the characteristics of a French settlement. Its growth was very slow. The industries were few and simple. Besides the employments of trading and transporting goods and peltries, the inhabitants engaged in hunting and trapping. Attention was given to the cultivation of the soil only incidently. Gardens were cultivated to some extent for a supply of vegetables. Gradually, however, a few persons turned their chief attention to agriculture.*

In 1783 four white persons occupied in a permanent manner the tract of land where now is Prairie du Chien, in Crawford Co., Wis. They were soon followed by a number of persons who located there. These became permanent traders with the Indians.

Besides the settlement at "the bay" and the one at Prairie du Chien some French traders were located where Milwaukee now is in 1795, but they could hardly be called settlers. Ten years before that date Laurence Barth lived at the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, now the site of Portage, Columbia Co., Wis., where he was engaged in the carrying trade. But his residence could not fairly be termed a settlement; so that when, in 1796, the English yielded possession of what is now Wisconsin to the Americans (a nominal one, however,) there were really but two settlements—Green Bay and Prairie du Chien.

*Hist. Northern Wis., p. 49.

WISCONSIN AS A PART OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The Congress of the United States, by their act of the 6th day of September, 1780, recommended to the several States in the Union having claims to waste and unappropriated lands in the western country, a liberal cession to the general government of a portion of their respective claims for the common benefit of the Union. The claiming States were Connecticut, New York and Virginia, all under their colonial charters, and the last mentioned, in addition thereto, by right of conquest of the Illinois country. The region contended for lay to the northwest of the river Ohio. Virginia claimed territory westward to the Mississippi and northward to a somewhat indefinite extent. New York, and especially Connecticut, laid claim to territory stretching away to an unbounded extent westward, but not so far to the south as Virginia. The last mentioned State, by virtue of conquests largely her own, extended her jurisdiction over the Illinois settlements in 1778, and the year after, and erected into a county enough to include all her conquests. But, what is now the State of Wisconsin, she certainly did not exercise dominion over. The three States finally ceded all their rights to the United States, leaving the general government absolute owner of the whole country, subject only to the rights, such as they were, of the Indian Nations who dwelt therein.

Under a congressional ordinance, passed in 1785, for ascertaining the mode of disposing of lands in the western territory, the geographer of the United States was directed to commence the survey of them immediately beyond the Ohio river, upon the plan which has ever since been followed by the general government, resulting in regular latitudinal and longitudinal lines being run, so as to circumscribe every 640 acres of land, not only in Wisconsin but in all the west, wherever these surveys have been brought to completion. Two years subsequent to the passage of the first ordinance, was that of another and more famous one, providing for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio. This is familiarly known as the ordinance of 1787; and to this day it is a part of the fundamental law of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, the five states since formed out of the region included within the limits affected by its provisions;—an act of Congress, passed in 1789, having adapted it to the constitution of the United States. But neither the treaty with Great Britain of 1783, nor the ordinances of Congress which followed, gave the United States anything more than constructive possession of the whole of its western territory. The mother country, it is true, recognized the northern lakes as the boundary between her possessions and those of the now independent states, but finding an excuse in the fact of some of her merchants not being paid their claims as stipulated by the treaty of 1783, she retained possession of the whole northwest, including what is now Wisconsin, until 1796.

By the ordinance of 1787, the United States in Congress assembled declared that the territory northwest of the Ohio, should, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into districts, as future circumstances might, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient. It was ordained, that a governor, secretary and three judges should be appointed for the territory; a general assembly was also provided for; and it was declared that religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education should forever be encouraged. It was also ordained that there should be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the territory, "otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." But this organic law was of course nugatory over that portion of the territory occupied by the British, and so continued until the latter yielded possession, and in fact, for some time subsequent thereto.

By the treaty agreed upon in 1794, between the United States and Great Britain, usually known as the Jay treaty, the evacuation of the posts and places occupied by British troops and garrisons in the northwest, was to take place on or before the 1st day of June, 1796. All settlers and traders within the precincts or jurisdiction of these posts were to continue to enjoy unmolested, all their property of every kind, and to be protected therein. They were at full liberty to remain there, or to remove with all or any part of their effects; and it was left free to them to sell their lands, houses, or effects, or to retain the property thereof, at their discretion. Such of them as should continue to reside there were not to be compelled to become citizens of the United States, or to take any oath of allegiance to the government thereof; but were at full liberty so to do if they thought proper; and they were to make and declare their election within one year after the evacuation of the posts by the military. Persons continuing after the expiration of one year without having declared their intentions of remaining subjects of his Britannic majesty, were to be considered as having elected to become citizens of the United States. It is believed that no citizen of Wisconsin, either in the settlement at "the bay" or at Prairie du Chien made such a declaration, but that all who remained, became thereby citizens of the new government.

The Indian war in the west; which followed the Revolution, was brought to an end by the victorious arms of Gen. Anthony Wayne, upon the banks of the Maumee river, in what is now the State of Ohio, in the year 1794. The treaty of Greenville was entered into the next year with twelve western tribes of Indians, none of which resided in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, one of the provisions of the treaty was that, in consideration of the peace then established and the cessations and the relinquishments of lands made by the Indian tribes there represented, and to manifest the liberality of the United States, claims to all Indian lands northward of the Ohio, eastward of the Mississippi, and westward and southward of the great lakes and the waters uniting them, were relinquished by the general government to the Indians having a right thereto. This included all the lands within the present boundaries of Wisconsin. The meaning of the relinquishment by the United States was that the Indian tribes who had a right to those lands were quietly to enjoy them, hunting, planting and dwelling thereon as long as they pleased, without any molestation from the general government; but when any tribe should be disposed to sell its lands, or any part of them, they were to be sold only to the United States; and until such sale, the general government would protect all the Indian tribes in the quiet enjoyment of their land against all citizens of the country, and against all other white persons who might intrude upon them. And if any citizen of the United States, or any other white person or persons should presume to settle upon the lands then relinquished by the general government, such citizens or other persons should be out of the protection of the United States; and the Indian tribe on whose land the settlement might be made might drive off the settler, or punish him in such manner as they might think fit; and because such settlements made without the consent of the general government would be injurious to them as well as to the Indians, the United States should be at liberty to break them up, and remove and punish the settlers, as they might think proper.

The titles of the Indians to their lands were thus acknowledged; and they were unquestionable, because treaties made, or to be made with the various tribes had been declared by the constitution of the United States, the supreme law of the land. But those titles could only be yielded to the general government. The principal question to be afterward determined was, what lands were each tribe the rightful owners of. So long as Wisconsin formed a part of the northwestern territory, no treaty was made by the United States with any

tribe or tribes occupying any portion of the the country now lying within the limits of Wisconsin.

When, in 1796, Great Britain yielded possession of the northwest by withdrawing its garrisons from the military posts therein, in pursuance of the Jay treaty of 1794, and the United States took formal possession thereof, the change in the political relations of the few settlers of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien was not felt by them. They had become the adopted citizens of the United States without any realization further than a bare knowledge of the fact. British authority had been so little exercised in their domestic affairs, that its withdrawal was unnoticed, while that of the United States only reached them in name. Nearly all who were engaged in the fur trade were agents or employes of the British fur companies, and their relation to these remained unbroken. No intercourse for several years sprung up with the Americans.

Under the ordinance of 1787, Arthur St. Clair was appointed governor of the northwestern territory. At different periods counties were erected to include various portions of that region of country. By the governor's proclamation of the 15th of August, 1796, one was formed to include the whole of the present area of northern Ohio, west of a point where the city of Cleveland is now located; also all of the present State of Indiana, north of a line drawn from Fort Wayne, "west-northerly to the southern part of Lake Michigan," the whole of what is now the State of Michigan, except the extreme northwest corner on Lake Superior; a small corner in the northeast part of the present State of Illinois, including Chicago; and so much of what is now Wisconsin as is watered by the streams flowing into Lake Michigan, which included an extensive portion of its area, taking in the territory now constituting many of its eastern and interior counties. To this county was given the name of Wayne. The citizens at the head of Green bay, from 1796, until the 4th of July, 1800, were, therefore, residents of Wayne county, Northwest territory. But the western portion of the present State of Wisconsin, including all its area watered by streams flowing northward into Lake Superior, and westward and southwestward into the Mississippi, was during those years attached to no county whatever. Within this part of the State was located, of course, the settlement of Prairie du Chien.

WISCONSIN AS A PART OF THE TERRITORY OF INDIANA.

After the fourth day of July, 1800, all that portion of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river, lying to the westward of a line beginning upon that stream opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river and running thence to what is now Fort Recovery, in Mercer Co., Ohio, thence north until it intersected the territorial line between the United States and Canada, was for the purposes of temporary government, constituted a separate territory, called Indiana. Within its boundaries were included not only nearly all of what is now the State of Indiana, but the whole of the present State of Illinois, more than half of what is now Michigan, a considerable portion of the present State of Minnesota, and the whole of Wisconsin. The seat of government was established at "Saint Vincennes on the Wabash." now the city of Vincennes, Ind. Upon the formation of a State government for the State of Ohio, in 1802, all the country west of that State, but east of the eastern boundary of the territory of Indiana, was added to the latter; so that then the area northwest of the Ohio river included but one State and one territory. Afterward, civil jurisdiction was exercised by the authorities of Indiana territory over the Green bay settlement, in a faint way, by the appointment, by Gov. William Henry Harrison, of Charles Reanme as the justice of the peace therein. Prairie du Chien was also recognized by the new territorial government by the appointment of two persons to a like office—

Henry M. Fisher and a trader by the name of Campbell.

As American emigration was now rapidly dotting the wilderness to the westward of the State of Ohio with settlements, a treaty with some of the Indian tribes who claimed lands in that region extending northward into what is now Wisconsin, was a necessity, for as yet, none of these Nations had met any authorities of the United States in council. At the close of the contest between France and Great Britain so disastrous in North America to the former, the Sacs and Foxes readily gave in their adhesion to the latter, asking that English traders might be sent them. The two Nations, then about equally divided, numbered about 700 warriors. Neither of the tribes took part in Pontiac's war, but they befriended the English. The Sacs had, by that date emigrated some distance to the westward, while the Foxes, at least a portion of them, still remained upon the waters of the river of Green bay, which perpetuates their name. A few years later, however, and the Sacs were occupants of the upper Wisconsin also to a considerable extent below the portage between that stream and Fox river, where their chief town was located. Further down the Wisconsin was the upper village of the Foxes, while their lower town was situated not far from its mouth, near the site of the present city of Prairie du Chien.

Not long after Wisconsin had been taken possession of by the British, its northern portion, including all that part watered by the streams flowing north into Lake Superior, was the home of the Chippewas. The country around nearly the whole of Green bay, was the hunting grounds of the Menomonees. The territory of Winnebago lake and Fox river was the seat of the Winnebagoes, while, as just stated, the Sacs and Foxes had the region of the Wisconsin river as their dwelling place. During the war of the Revolution, these two tribes continued the firm friends of the English, although not engaged in active hostilities against the Americans. When finally England delivered up to the United States the possession of the northwest, the Sacs and Foxes had only a small portion of their territory in Wisconsin, and that in the extreme southwest. Their principal possession extended a considerable distance to the south of the mouth of the Wisconsin, upon both sides of the Mississppi river.

On the 3d of November, 1804, a treaty was held at St. Louis between the Sacs and Foxes and the United States. These tribes then ceded to the general government, a lage tract of land on both sides of the Mississippi, extending on the east from the mouth of the Illinois to the head of that river, thence to the Wisconsin. This grant embraces, in what is now Wisconsin, the whole of the present counties of Grant and La Fayette, and a large portion of those of Iowa and Green. It included the lead region. These tribes also claimed territory on the upper side of the Wisconsin, but they only granted away a tract two miles square above that stream, near its mouth, with the right of the United States to build a fort adjacent thereto. In consideration of the cession of these lands, the general government agreed to protect the two tribes in the quiet enjoyment of the residue of their possessions against its own citizens and all others who should intrude on them; carrying out the stipulations to that effect embodied in the Greenville treaty, of 1795. Thus begun the quieting of the Indian title to the eminent domain of Wisconsin by the United States, which was carried forward until the whole territory (except certain reservations to a few tribes) had been fairly purchased of the original proprietors.

So much of Indiana territory as lay to the north of a line drawn east from the southern bend of Lake Michigan to Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the same bend through the middle of the first mentioned lake to its northern extremity, thence due north to the

northern boundary of the United States, was, for the purposes of temporary government, on the 30th of June, 1805, constituted a separate and distinct territory, called Michigan. This new territory did not include within its boundaries any part of Wisconsin as at present defined.

WISCONSIN AS A PART OF ILLINOIS TERRITORY.

On the 3d of February, 1809, an act of Congress, entitled an act for dividing the Indiana territory into two separate governments, was approved by the President and became a law. It provided that from and after the 1st day of March thereafter, all that part of the Indiana territory lying west of the Wabash river and a direct line drawn from that stream and "Post Vincennes" due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, should, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory and be called Illinois, with the seat of government at Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi river, until it should be otherwise ordered. By this law, all of what is now Wisconsin was transferred from Indiana territory to that of Illinois, except that portion lying east of the meridian line drawn through Vincennes. This fraction included nearly the whole area between Green bay and Lake Michigan and remained a part of the territory of Indiana. When, in 1816, Indiana became a State, this narrow strip, as it was neither a portion of Michigan territory on the east or Illinois territory on the west, remained without any organization until 1818. In that year it became a part of Michigan territory.

In 1809, an effort was made by John Jacob Astor, of New York city, to extend the American fur-trade by way of the lakes to Wisconsin and parts beyond; but the monopoly of the British fur companies was too strong. He could only effect his object by uniting with the northwest company of Montreal, in 1811, to form out of the American and Mackinaw companies, a new one, to be known as the Southwest company, of which Astor owned a half interest, with the arrangement that, after five years, it was to pass into his hands altogether, being restricted in its operations to the territories of the United States. This company was suspended by the war with Great Britain, which immediately followed. At the close of hostilities, British traders were prohibited by law from pursuing their calling within the jurisdiction of the United States. The result was the southwest company closed up its affairs, and the American fur company re-appeared under the exclusive control of Astor, who established his western headquarters at Mackinaw, operating extensively in what is now Wisconsin, especially at La Pointe, upon Lake Superior, where large warehouses were erected; a stockade built, lands cleared, farms opened, dwellings and stores put up. But English traders evaded the law by sending their goods into the United States in the name of American clerks in their employ. These goods being of superior quality to those furnished by Astor, they continued to command the Indian trade to a large extent. It was only when the American prince of fur-traders was enabled to import goods to New York of equal quality and send them by way of the lakes, that he could successfully compete with his rivals and in the end drive them from the field.

At the commencement of the war with Great Britain the few settlers at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien depended largely upon the fur trade for their living, monopolized, as we have seen, at that period, by British traders. At the beginning of hostilities this dependency was promptly secured to the latter by the capture, from the Americans, of the post at Mackinaw. Naturally enough most of the people of Wisconsin, limited in number as they were, adhered to the English during the continuance of hostilities. As to the Indian tribes, within what are now the limits of the State, it may be said that, in a measure, they, too, all arrayed themselves on the side of Great Britain. The Menomonees and Winnebagoes took part in the

capture of Mackinaw, and subsequently in other enterprises against the Americans. Indeed, all the tribes in the northwest were firmly attached to the English by reciprocal interest in the fur trade, from which they derived their supplies. Great Britain had never ceased since the Revolution to foster their friendship by the liberal distribution annually of presents; hence, they were ready when the War of 1812–15 was inaugurated to take up the hatchet against the Americans. Just before hostilities began, the English traders were especially active in exciting the Indians against the Americans, more especially against American traders. Robert Dickson, a resident of Prairie du Chien, an Englishman by birth, was among the foremost in stirring up the animosity of the savages. Soon after the declaration of war he collected a body of Indians at Green Bay for the purpose of rendering assistance to the British forces in their operations on the lakes and in the northwest; they were principally Pottawattamies, Kickapoos, Ottawas, Winnebagoes and Sacs, the last mentioned being Black Hawk's band. This chief was made commander-in-chief of the savages there assembled, by Dickinson, and sent to join the British army under Proctor.

The English early succeeded in securing the Wisconsin Indian tribes as their allies in this war; and having taken Mackinaw in July, 1812, they were, virtually, put in possession of what is now the eastern portion of the State. Early in 1814, the government authorities of the United States caused to be fitted out at St. Louis a large boat, having on board all the men that could be mustered and spared from the lower country, and sent up the Mississippi to protect the upper region and the few settlers therein. The troops landed at Prairie du Chien, and immediately proceeded to fortify. Not long after, Col. McKay, of the British army, crossing the country by course of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, with over 500 British and Indians, received the surrender of the whole orce. The officers and men were paroled and sent down the river. This was the only battle fought upon Wisconsin soil during the last war with England. The post at Prairie du Chien was left in command of a captain with two companies from Mackinaw. He remained there until after the peace of 1815, when the place was evacuated by the British.

On the 3d of August, 1814, an expedition of about 300 men. under command of Maj. Zachary Taylor, left St. Louis in boats for the upper Mississippi. When they arrived at Rock Island they found the British there, apparently in force, with a battery on shore commanding the river. A severe fight took place, but after sustaining a loss of several killed and wounded the Americans returned to St. Louis. The British afterwards left Rock Island, and upon the signing of the treaty of peace by the envoys of the two governments, and the ratification of the same, the whole northwest, including Fort McKay at Prairie du Chien, was evacuated by British forces.

When it was made known to the Indian tribes of the west some of them upon the Mississippi were willing and eager to make treaties with the United States. A lucrative trade sprung up between the merchants of St. Louis and the traders and Indians up that river. Goods were periodically sent up the river to traders, who in turn transmitted in payment, by the same boats, furs and lead. But, generally, the savages hovered sullenly around the now rapidly increasing settlements in the territories of Michigan and Illinois, and the general government began to consider in earnest how the influence of British intercourse might be checked, for the savages were still encouraged by English traders in their unfriendly disposition and supplied with arms by them. Accordingly, in the winter after the close of the war, Congress prohibited foreign trade in the territory of the United States; and, in the summer following, steps were taken to make this policy effectual, by establishing a chain of military posts near the Canadian frontier and upon the

principal lines of communication thence into the interior. These posts were to be occupied by Indian agents, with factories, or government stores, designed to supply the place of the prohibited traffic.

On the 21st of June, 1816, United States troops took possession of the fort at Prairie du Chien. During the next month three schooners entered Fox river of Green bay, under the American flag, displaying to the astonished inhabitants of the small settlement upon that stream near its mouth, their decks covered with government troops. They were under command of Col. John Miller, of the Third United States Infantry, whose purpose was the establishment of a garrison near the head of the bay. The rendezvous of the troops was upon the east side some distance up the river, and was called "Camp Smith." At the end of two months the garrison was established in barracks enclosed with a stockade. Camp Smith was occupied until 1820, when a more substantial structure was erected on the west side of the stream near its mouth, and named Fort Howard.

The settlement at Green Bay was made up at the close of the war, of about forty or fifty French Canadians. The inhabitants (as at Prairie du Chien) were now for a time the subjects of military rule. "They received the advent of the troops in a hospitable spirit, and acquiesced in the authority asserted over them, with little evidence of discontent, maintaining a character for docility and freedom from turbulence of disposition remarkably in contrast with their surroundings. Military authority was, in the main, exerted for the preservation of order." There was no civil authority worth speaking of. It was at a period when important changes were taking place. That sometimes military authority, under such circumstances, should have been exercised in an arbitrary manner, is not at all a matter of surprise. "The conduct of the soldiery was also sometimes troublesome and offensive; as a rule, however, harmonious relations existed between them and the citizens. The abuses were only such as were unavoidable, in the absence of any lawful restraint on the one hand, or means of redress on the other." This state of affairs did not long continue, as initiatory steps were not long after taken to extend over the community both here and at Prairie du Chien the protection of civil government.

The Indians of Wisconsin, upon the arrival of United States troops at Prairie du Chien and Green bay, gave evident signs of a disposition to remain friendly, although some thought the advent of soldiers an intrusion. An Indian agency under John Boyer and a United States factory, well supplied with goods, with Major Matthew Irwin at its head, were soon established at the bay; a factory at Prairie du Chien, under charge of John W. Johnson, was also started. The Menemonee and Winnebago tribes, the former upon Green bay, the latter upon the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, were now brought into nearer relations with the United States.

WISCONSIN AS A PART OF MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

Upon the admission of Illinois into the Union, in 1818, all "the territory of the United States, northwest of the River Ohio," lying west of Michigan territory and north of the States of Indiana and Illinois, was attached to and made a part of Michigan territory; by which act the whole of the present State of Wisconsin came under the jurisdiction of the latter. At the close of the last war with Great Britian, Wisconsin began in earnest to be occupied by Americans. But the latter were still few in number when the country west of Lake Michigan was attached to Michigan territory. Now, however, that the laws of the United States were in reality extended over them, they began to feel as though they were not altogether beyond the protection of a government of their own, notwithstanding they were surrounded by Indian tribes. On the 26th of October, 1818, the governor of the territory erected by proclamation three counties lying in whole or in part in what is now Wisconsin—Brown, Crawford

and Michilimackinac. The county of Michilimackinac not only included all of the present State of Wisconsin lying north of a line drawn due west from near the head of the Little Noquet bay, but territory east and west of it, so as to reach from Lake Huron to the Mississippi river. Its county seat was established "at the Borough of Michilimackinac." The whole area in Michigan territory south of the county of Michilimackinac, and west of Lake Michigan formed the two counties of Brown and Crawford; the former to include the area east of a line drawn due north and south through the middle of the portage between the Fox river of Green bay and the Wisconsin; the latter to include the whole region west of that line. Prairie du Chien was designated as the county seat of Crawford; Green Bay, of Brown county. On the 22d of December, 1826, a county named Chippewa was formed from the northern portions of Michilimackinac, including the southern shores of Lake Superior throughout its entire length, and extending from the straits leading from that lake into Lake Huron, west to the western boundary line of Michigan territory, with the county seat "at such point in the vicinity of the Sault de Ste. Marie, as a majority of the county commissioners to be appointed shall designate." Embraced within this county —its southern boundary being the parallel of 46 degrees 31 minutes north latitude— was all the territory of the present State of Wisconsin now bordering on Lake Superior. Brown and Crawford counties were soon organized, the offices being filled by appointments of the governor. County courts were also established, to which appeals were taken from justices of the peace. In January, 1823, a district court was established by an act of Congress, for the counties last mentioned, including also Michilimackinac. One term during the year was held in each county. James Duane Doty was the judge of this court to May, 1832, when he was succeeded by David Irvin.

The United States were not unmindful of her citizens to the westward of Lake Michigan, in several other important matters. Indian agencies were established; treaties were held with some of the native tribes, and land claims of white settlers at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien adjusted. Postmasters were also appointed at these two places.

In 1825 and the two following years, a general attention was called to the lead mines in what is now the southwestern portion of the State. Different places therein were settled with American miners. In June, 1827, the Winnebago Indians became hostile; this caused the militia of Prairie du Chien to be called out. United States troops ascended the Wisconsin river to quell the disturbance. There they were joined by Illinois volunteers, and the Winnebagoes awed into submission. Fort Winnebago was thereupon erected by the general government at the portage, near the present site of Portage, Columbia Co., Wis. A treaty with the Indians followed, and there was no more trouble because of mining operations in the "lead region." On the 9th of October, 1829, a county was formed of all that part of Crawford lying south of the Wisconsin, and named Iowa. In 1831 the United States purchased of the Menomonees all their lands east of Green bay, Winnebago lake and the Fox and Milwaukee rivers. The general government, before this date, had, at several periods, held treaties with the Sac and Fox Indians. And the time had now come when the two tribes were to leave the eastern for the western side of the Mississippi river; but a band headed by Black Hawk refused to leave their village near Rock Island, Ill. They contended that they had not sold their town to the United States; and upon their return early in 1831, from a hunt across the Mississippi, finding their village and fields in possession of the whites, they determined to repossess their homes at all hazards. This was looked upon, or called, an encroachment by the settlers; so the governor of Illinois took the responsibility of declaring the State invaded, and asked the United States to drive the refrac-

tory Indians beyond the Mississippi. The result was, the Indian village was destroyed by Illinois volunteers. This and the threatened advance across the river by the United States commander, brought Black Hawk and his followers to terms. They sued for peace—agreeing to remain forever on the west side of the Mississippi. But this truce was of short duration.

Early in the spring of 1832, Black Hawk having assembled his forces on the Mississippi in the vicinity of the locality where Fort Madison had stood, crossed that stream and ascended Rock river. This was the signal for war. The governor of Illinois made a call for volunteers, and in a brief space of time 1,800 had assembled at Beardstown, Cass county. They marched for the mouth of Rock river, where a council of war was held by their officers and Brigadier-General Henry Atkinson, of the regular forces. The Indians were sent word by General Atkinson that they must return and recross the Mississippi or they would be driven back by force. When the attempt was made to compel them to go back a collision occurred between the Illinois militia and Black Hawk's braves, resulting in the discomfiture of the former with the loss of eleven men. Soon afterward the volunteers were discharged, and the first campaign of Black Hawk's War was at an end. This was in May, 1832. In June following a new force had been raised and put under the command of General Atkinson, who commenced his march up Rock river. Before this there had been a general "forting" in the lead region, in Illinois, and including the whole country in what is now Southwest Wisconsin, notwithstanding which a number of settlers had been killed by the savages, mostly in Illinois. Squads of volunteers, in two or three instances, had encountered the Indians, and in one with entire success—upon the Pecatonica, in the present Lafayette Co., Wis.—every savage (and there were seventeen of them) being killed. The loss of the volunteers was three killed and wounded. Atkinson's march up Rock river was attended with some skirmishing, when, being informed that Black Hawk and his force were at Lake Koshkonong, in the southwest corner of what is now Jefferson Co., Wis., he immediately moved thither with a portion of his army, where the whole force was ordered to concentrate. But the Sac chief, with his people, had flown. Colonels Henry Dodge and James D. Henry, with the forces under them, discovered the trail of the savages, leading in the direction of Wisconsin river. It was evident that the retreating force was large, and that it had but recently passed. The pursuing troops hastened their march. On the 21st of July, 1832, they arrived at the hills which skirt the left bank of that stream, in what is now Roxbury town (township), Dane county. Here was Black Hawk's whole force, including women and children, the aged and infirm, hastening by every effort to escape across the river. But that this might now be effected it became necessary for that chief to make a firm stand, to cover the retreat. The Indians were in the bottom lands when the pursuing whites made their appearance upon the heights in their rear. Colonel Dodge occupied the front and sustained the first attack of the Indians. He was soon joined by Henry with his force, when they obtained a complete victory. The action commenced about 5 o'clock in the afternoon and ended at sunset. The enemy sustained a loss, it is said, of about sixty killed and a large number wounded.* The loss of the Americans was one killed and eight wounded. During the following night Black Hawk made his escape down the Wisconsin. He was pursued and finally brought to a stand on the Mississippi near the mouth of the Bad Axe, on the western boundary of what is now Vernon Co., Wis.; and on the 2d of August attacked on all sides by the Americans, who soon obtained a complete victory. Black Hawk escaped, but was soon after captured. This ended the war.

*Black Hawk gives a very different account as to his loss. "In this skirmish," says he, "with fifty braves I defended and accomplished my passage over the Wisconsin with a loss of only six men."

The survey of public lands to which the Indian title had been extinguished; the erection of Milwaukee county from the southern part of Brown; the changing of the eastern boundary of Iowa county to correspond with the western one of Milwaukee county; the attaching, for judicial purposes, of all the country west of the Mississippi river and north of the State of Missouri to the territory of Michigan in 1834, and the division of it into the two counties of Des Moines and Dubuque, were the important events following the close of the Black Hawk war. The prospective admission of the State of Michigan into the Union, to include all that part of the territory lying east of Lake Michigan, caused, on the 1st of January, 1836, a session (the first one) of the seventh territorial council, to legislate for so much of the territory as lay to the westward of that lake; to be held at Green Bay, when a memorial was adopted, asking Congress for the formation of a new territory, to include all of Michigan territory not to be admitted as a State. This request, it will now be seen, was soon complied with by the National Legislature.

CHAPTER II.

WISCONSIN AS A TERRITORY.

The Territory of Wisconsin* was erected by act of Congress of April 20, 1836, to take effect from and after the 3d day of July following. It was made to include all that part of the late Michigan territory described within boundaries "commencing at the northeast corner of the State of Illinois, running thence through the middle of Lake Michigan to a point opposite the main channel of Green bay; thence through that channel and the bay to the mouth of the Menomonee river; thence up that stream to its head, which is nearest the lake of the Desert; thence to the middle of that lake; thence down the Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches the lake northwest; thence on the north, with the territorial line, to the White Earth river; on the west by a line drawn down the middle of the main channel of that stream to the Missouri river, and down the middle of the main channel of the last mentioned stream to the northwest corner of the State of Missouri; and thence with the boundaries of the States of Missouri and Illinois, as already fixed by act of

*Wisconsin takes its name from its principal river, which drains an extensive portion of its surface. It rises in Lake Vieux Desert (which is partly in Michigan and partly in Wisconsin), flows generally a south course to Portage in what is now Columbia county, where it turns to the southwest, and after a further course of 118 miles, with a rapid current, reaches the Mississippi river, four miles below Prairie du Chien. Its entire length is about 450 miles, descending, in that distance, a little more than 1,000 feet. Along the lower portion of the stream are the high lands, or river hills. Some of these hills present high and precipitous faces toward the water. Others terminate in knobs. The name is supposed to have been taken from this feature; the word being derived from *mis-is*, great, and *os-sin*, a stone or rock.

Compare Shea's *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi*, pp. 6 (note) and 268; Foster's *Mississippi Valley*, p. 2 (note); Schoolcraft's *Thirty Years with the Indian Tribes*, p. 270 and note.

Two definitions of the word are current—as widely differing from each other as from the one just given. (See Wis. Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. I, p. 111, and Webster's Dic., Unabridged, p. 1632.) The first—"the gathering of the waters"—has no corresponding words in Algonquin at all resembling the name; the same may be said of the second—"wild rushing channel." (See Otchipwe Dic. of Rev. F. Baraga.

Since first used by the French the word "Wisconsin" has undergone considerable change. On the map by Joliet, recently brought to light by Gravier, it is given as "Miskonsing." In Marquette's journal, published by Thevenot, in Paris, 1681, it is noted as the "Meskousing." It appeared there for the first time in print. Hennepin, in 1683, wrote "Onisconsin" and "Misconsin;" Charlevoix, 1743, "Ouisconsin;" Carver, 1766, "Ouisconsin" (English—"Wisconsin"); since which last mentioned date the orthography has been uniform.—Butterfield's *Discovery of the Northwest in 1634*.

Congress, to the place or point of beginning." Its counties were Brown, Milwaukee, Iowa, Crawford, Dubuque and Des Moines, with a portion of Chippewa and Michilimackinac unorganized. Henry Dodge was commissioned governor April 30, 1836; Charles Dunn, chief justice, and David Irvin and William C. Frazer associate justices; by Andrew Jackson, President of the United States. The following were the secretaries, attorneys and marshals, with the dates of their commissions who held office while the territory was in existence :

SECRETARIES.

John S. Horner, May 6, 1836; William B. Slaughter, Feb. 16, 1837; Francis I. Dunn, Jan. 25, 1841; Alexander P. Field, April 23, 1841; George Floyd, Oct. 30, 1843; John Catlin, Feb. 24, 1846.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS.

W. W. Chapman, May 6, 1836; Moses M. Strong, July 5, 1838; Thomas W. Sutherland, April 27, 1841; William P. Lynde, July 14, 1845.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS.

Francis Gehon, May 6, 1836; Edward James, June 19, 1838; Daniel Hugunin, March 15, 1841; Charles M. Prevost, Aug. 31, 1844; John S. Rockwell, March 14, 1845.

The first important measure to be looked after by Governor Dodge upon his assuming, in the spring of 1836, the executive chair of the territory was the organization of the territorial Legislature. A census showed the following population east of the Mississippi: Milwaukee county, 2,893; Brown county, 2,706; Crawford county, 850; Iowa county, 5,234. Total, 11,683. The enumeration for the two counties west of the Mississippi was—Des Moines, 6,257; Dubuque, 4,274. Total, 10,531. The population, therefore, of both sides of the river aggregated 22,214. The legislative apportionment, made by the governor, gave to the territory thirteen councilmen and twenty-six representatives. These, of course, were to be elected by the people. The election was held Oct. 10, 1836. Belmont, in the present county of Lafayette, Wis., was appointed as the place for the meeting of the Legislature, where the first session began October 25. A quorum of each house was in attendance. Henry S. Baird, of Green Bay, was elected president of the council, and Peter H. Engle speaker of the house.

The following persons served as presidents of the council while Wisconsin was a territory :

First session, first Legislative Assembly, Henry S. Baird, Brown county.

Second session, first Legislative Assembly, Arthur R. Ingraham, Des Moines county.

Special session, first Legislative Assembly, Arthur R. Ingraham, Des Moines county.

First session, second Legislative Assembly, William Bullen, Racine county.

Second session, second Legislative Assembly, James Collins, Iowa county.

Third session, second Legislative Assembly, James Collins, Iowa county.

Fourth (extra) session, second Legislative Assembly, William A. Prentiss, Milwaukee county.

First session, third Legislative Assembly, James Maxwell, Walworth county.

Second session, third Legislative Assembly, James Collins, Iowa county.

First session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Moses M. Strong, Iowa county.

Second session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Marshal M. Strong, Racine county.

Third session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Moses M. Strong, Iowa county.

Fourth session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Nelson Dewey, Grant county.

First session, fifth Legislative Assembly, Horatio N. Wells, Milwaukee county.

Special session, fifth Legislative Assembly, Horatio N. Wells, Milwaukee county.

Second session, fifth Legislative Assembly, Horatio N. Wells, Milwaukee county.

The following persons served as speakers of the House during the continuance of Wisconsin territory :

First session, first Legislative Assembly, Peter H. Engle, Dubuque county.

Second session, first Legislative Assembly, Isaac Leffler, Des Moines county.

Special session, first Legislative Assembly, William B. Sheldon, Milwaukee county.

First session, second Legislative Assembly, John W. Blackstone, Iowa county.

Second session, second Legislative Assembly, Lucius I. Barber, Milwaukee county.

Third session, second Legislative Assembly, Edward V. Whiton, Rock county.

Fourth (extra) session, second Legislative Assembly, Nelson Dewey, Grant county.

First session, third Legislative Assembly, David Newland, Iowa county.

Second session, third Legislative Assembly David Newland, Iowa county.

First session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Albert G. Ellis, Portage county.

Second session, fourth Legislative Assembly, George H. Walker, Milwaukee county.

Third session, fourth Legislative Assembly, George H. Walker, Milwaukee county.

Fourth session, fourth Legislative Assembly, Mason C. Darling, Fond du Lac county.

First session, fifth Legislative Assembly, William Shew, Milwaukee county.

Special session, fifth Legislative Assembly, Isaac P. Walker, Milwaukee county.

Second session, fifth Legislative Assembly, Timothy Burns, Iowa county.

Each of the three branches of the infant government was now (October, 1836) in working order, except that it remained for the Legislative Assembly to divide the territory into three judicial districts, the number required by the organic act, and make an assignment of the judges. This was speedily done. Crawford and Iowa constituted the first district, to which the chief justice was assigned; Dubuque and Des Moines the second, to which judge Irvin was assigned; and Judge Frazer to the third, consisting of Milwaukee and Brown counties. The principal matters engaging the attention of the legislators were the permanent location of the capitol, the erection of new counties and the location of county seats. Madison was fixed upon as the seat of government; and nine counties were erected east of the Mississippi: Walworth, Racine, Jefferson, Dane, Dodge, Washington, Rock, Grant and Green. West of the river six counties were set off: Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine and Cook. The Legislature adjourned *sine die*, Dec. 9, 1836. The first term of the supreme court was held at Belmont on the the 8th day of December, of that year. The appointment of a clerk, crier and reporter, and the admission of several attorneys to practice, completed the business of the first term. The following persons served as clerks while Wisconsin was a territory:

John Catlin, appointed at December term, 1836; Simeon Mills, appointed at July term, 1839; La Fayette Kellogg, appointed at July term, 1840. Gov. Dodge, appointed Dec. 8, 1836, Henry S. Baird, as attorney general. His successors were as follows:

Horatio N. Wells, appointed by Gov. Dodge, March 30, 1839; Mortimer M. Jackson, appointed by Gov. Dodge, Jan. 26, 1842; William Pitt Lynde, appointed by Gov. Tallmage, Feb. 22, 1845; A. Hyatt Smith, appointed by Gov. Dodge Aug. 4, 1845. Upon the organization of the territory in 1836, it was necessary that it should be represented in the National Legislature; so on the day of the election of the territorial Legislature, George W. Jones, of Iowa county, was chosen a delegate in Congress. His successors were:

James Duane Doty, elected Sept. 10, 1838; James Duane Doty, elected Aug. 5, 1840; Henry Dodge, elected Sept. 27, 1841; Henry Dodge, elected Sept. 25, 1843; Morgan L. Martin, elected Sept. 22, 1845; John H. Tweedy, elected Sept. 6, 1847.

At the close of the year 1836, there was no land in market east of the Mississippi, except a narrow strip along the shore of Lake Michigan, and in the vicinity of Green bay. The residue

of the country south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers was open only to pre-emption by actual settlers. The Indian tribes still claimed a large portion of the lands. On the north were located the Chippewas. The southern limits of their possessions were defined by a line drawn from a point on that stream in about latitude 46 degrees 31 minutes in a southeasterly direction to the head of Lake St. Croix; thence in the same general direction to what is now Stevens Point, in the present Portage Co., Wis.; thence nearly east to Wolf river; and thence in a direction nearly northeast to the Menomonee river. Between the Wisconsin river and the Mississippi, and extending north to the south line of the Chippewas was the territory of the Winnebagoes. East of the Winnebagoes in the country north of the Fox river of Green bay were located the Menomonees, their lands extending to Wolf river. Such was the general outline of Indian occupancy in Wisconsin territory, east of the Mississippi, at its organization. A portion of the country east of Wolf river and north of Green bay and the Fox river; the whole of the area lying south of Green bay, Fox river and the Wisconsin, constituted the extent of country over which the Indians had no claim. In this region, as we have seen, was a populatian of about 12,000, it was made up of the scattered settlers at the lead mines; the military establishments, (Fort Crawford, Fort Winnebago and Fort Howard), and settlements at or near them; and the village of Milw aukee; these were about all the parts of the territory east of the Mississippi, at that date, occupied to any extent by the whites.

The second session of the first Legislative Assembly of the territory of Wisconsin, began at Burlington, now the county seat of Des Moines Co., Iowa, Nov. 6, 1837, and adjourned Jan. 20, 1838, to the second Monday of June following. The principal acts passed were, one for taking another census; one abolishing imprisonment for debt; another regulating the sale of school lands and to prepare for organizing, regulating and perfecting schools. There was also one passed incorporating the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal Company. This was approved by the governor, Jan. 5, 1838. By an act of Congress approved June 18 of the same year, a grant of land was made to aid in the construction of the canal. The grant consisted of the odd-numbered sections on a belt of ten miles in width from Lake Michigan to Rock river, amounting to 139,190 acres. Of those lands 43,447 acres were sold at public sale in July, 1839, at the minimum price of $2.50 per acre. Work was commenced on the canal at Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee river for a short distance from its outlet was improved by the construction of a dam across the river, which was made available for manufacturing and other purposes. A canal was also built about a mile in length and forty feet wide, leading from it down on the west bank of the river. Much dissatisfaction subsequently arose; the purchasers at this sale, and others occupying these canal and reserved lands felt the injustice of being compelled to pay double price for their lands, and efforts were made to repeal all laws authorizing further sales, and to ask Congress to repeal the act making this grant. The legislation on the subject of this grant is voluminous. In 1862 the Legislature of the State passed an act to ascertain and settle the liabilities, if any, of Wisconsin and the company, and a board of commissioners was appointed for that purpose. At the session of the Legislature in 1863, the committee made a report with a lengthy opinion of the attorney-general of the State. The views of that officer were, that the company had no valid claims for damages against the State. In this opinion the commissioners concurred. On the 23d of March, 1875, an act was approved by the governor, giving authority to the attorney-general to discharge and release of record any mortgage before executed to the late territory of Wisconsin given to secure the purchase money or any part thereof of any lands granted by Congress to aid in the construction of this canal. The quantity of lands unsold was sub-

sequently made a part of the 500,000 acre tract granted by Congress for school purposes. It is believed the whole matter is now closed against further legislative enactments.

There was another important act passed by the territorial Legislature of 1837–8, by which fourteen counties were erected, but all of them west of the Mississippi. The census having been taken in May, a special session of the first Legislative Assembly was commenced June 11, 1838, at Burlington, continuing to June 25, of that year. This session was pursuant to an adjournment of the previous one, mainly for the purpose of making a new apportionment of members. The population of the several counties east of the Mississippi was, by the May census, 18,149. By an act of Congress, approved June 12, 1838, it was provided that from and after the 3d day of July following, all that part of Wisconsin territory lying west of that river and west of a line drawn due north from its headwaters or sources to the territorial line for the purposes of a territorial government should be set apart and known by the name of Iowa. It was further enacted that the territory of Wisconsin should thereafter extend westward only to the Mississippi. Because of the passage of this act, the one passed at the special session of the territorial Legislature making an apportionment of members, became nugatory—that duty now devolving upon Gov. Doty. On the third Monday of July, 1838, the annual term of supreme court was held at Madison this, of course, being the first one after the re-organization of the territory; the previous one was not held, as there was no business for the court. On the 18th of October, Judge Frazer died, and on the 8th of November, Andrew G. Miller was appointed his successor, by Martin Van Buren, President of the United States.

The Legislature of the re-organized territory of Wisconsin met at Madison for the first time —it being the first session of the second Legislative Assembly—Nov. 26, 1838. Its attention was directed to the mode in which the commissioners of public buildings had discharged their duties. There was an investigation of three banks then in operation in the territory—one at Green Bay, one at Mineral Point, and the other at Milwaukee. A plan, also, for the revision of the laws of the territory was considered. A new assignment was made for the holding of district courts. Chief Justice Dunn was assigned to the first district, composed of the counties of Iowa, Grant and Crawford; Judge Irvin to the second, composed of the counties of Dane, Jefferson, Rock, Walworth and Green; while Judge Miller was assigned to the third district, composed of Milwaukee, Brown and Racine counties—including therein the unorganized counties of Washington and Dodge, which, for judicial purposes, were, when constituted, by name and boundary, attached to Milwaukee county. The Legislature adjourned on the 22d of December, to meet again on the 21st of the following month. The census having been taken during the year, it was found that the territory had a population of 18,130, an increase in two years, of 6,447. The second session of the second Legislative Assembly began Jan. 21, 1839, agreeable to adjournment. An act was passed during this session legalizing a revision of the laws which had been perfected by a committee previously; this act took effect July 4, and composed the principal part of the laws forming the revised statutes of 1839. The session ended March 11, 1839. On the 8th of March of this year, Henry Dodge, whose term for three years as governor was about to expire, was again commissioned by the President of the United States. At the July term of the supreme court, all the judges were present, and several cases were heard and decided. A seal for the court was also adopted. From this time, the supreme court met annually, as provided by law, until Wisconsin became a State.

The next Legislature assembled at Madison, on the 2d of December, 1839. This was the

third session of the second Legislative Assembly of the territory. The term for which members of the house were elected would soon expire; it was therefore desirable that a new apportionment should be made. As the census would be taken the ensuing June, by the United States, it would be unnecessary for the territory to make an additional enumeration. A short session was resolved upon, and then an adjournment until after the completion of the census. One of the subjects occupying largely the attention of the members, was the condition of the capitol, and the conduct of the commissioners intrusted with the money appropriated by Congress to defray the cost of its construction. These commissioners were James Duane Doty, A. A. Bird and John F. O'Neill. They received their appointment from the general government. Work began on the building in June, 1837, the corner stone being laid with appropriate ceremonies July 4. During that year and the previous one, Congress appropriated $40,000, Dane county $4,000, and the territorial Legislature, about $16,000, for the structure; so that the entire cost was about $60,000. The building, when finished, was a substantial structure, which, in architectural design and convenience of arrangement, compared favorably with the capitols of adjacent and older States. The capitol proving inadequate to the growing wants of the State, the Legislature of 1857 provided for its enlargement. By this act, the commissioners of school and university lands were directed to sell the ten sections of land appropriated by Congress "for the completion of public buildings," and apply the proceeds toward enlarging and improving the State capitol. The State also appropriated $30,000 for the same object, and $50,000 was given by the city of Madison. The governor and secretary of State were made commissioners for conducting the work, which was begun in the fall of 1857, and continued from year to year until 1869, when the dome was completed. The Legislature of 1882 appropriated $200,000 for the construction of two transverse wings to the capitol building, one on the north and the other on the south sides thereof, in order to provide additional room for the State historical society, the supreme court, the State library, and for the increasing work of the State offices. The governor, secretary of State, attorney general, with others, representing the supreme court and the historical society, were made commissioners for carrying out the work. The cost will be within the amount appropriated by the State. The total appropriations for the enlargement of the capitol and for the improvement of the park, to the present time, are $629,992.54. This does not include the sum of $6,500 appropriated in 1875, for macadamizing to the center of the streets around the park, nor the $200,000 appropriated in 1882. The park is 914 feet square, cornering north, south, east and west, contains fourteen and four-tenths acres, and is situated on an elevation commanding a view of the third and fourth lakes and the surrounding country. In the center of the square stands the capitol. The height of the building from the basement to the top of the flag staff is 225½ feet, while the total length of its north and south wings, exclusive of steps and porticoes, with the addition of the new wings, is 396 feet, and of the east and west wings, 226 feet.

The Legislature of 1839–40, adjourned January 13, to meet again on the 3d of the ensuing August. The completion of the federal census of 1840 showed a population for the territory of 30,744. Upon the re-assembling of the Legislature—which is known as the extra session of the second Legislative Assembly—some changes were made in the apportionment of members to the House of Representatives. The session lasted but a few days, a final adjournment taking place Aug. 14, 1840. The first session of the third Legislative Assembly began Dec. 7, 1840, and ended Feb. 19, 1841, with only three members who had served in the previous Assem-

bly. All had recently been elected under the new apportionment.

On the 13th of September, 1841, Gov. Dodge was removed from office by John Tyler, then President of the United States, and James Duane Doty appointed in his place, the commission of the latter being dated the 5th of October following.

The second session of the third Legislative Assembly began at Madison, on the 6th of December, 1841. Gov. Doty, in his message to that body, boldly avowed the doctrine that no law of the territory was effective until expressly approved by Congress. This construction of the organic act resulted in a lengthy warfare between the governor and the Legislative Assembly. On the 11th of February, 1842, an event occurred in the Legislative council, causing a great excitement over the whole territory. On that day, Charles C. P. Arndt, a member from Brown county, was, while that body was in session, shot dead by James R. Vineyard, a member from Grant county. The difficulty grew out of a debate on a motion to lay on the table the nomination of Enos S. Baker to the office of sheriff of Grant county. Immediately before adjournment of the council, the parties who had come together, after loud and angry words had been spoken, were separated by the by-standers. When an adjournment had been announced, they met again ; whereupon Arndt struck at Vineyard. The latter then drew a pistol and shot Arndt. He died in a few moments. Vineyard immediately surrendered himself to the sheriff of the county, waived an examination, and was committed to jail. After a short confinement, he was brought before the chief justice of the territory, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and admitted to bail. He was afterward indicted for manslaughter, was tried and acquitted. Three days after shooting Arndt, Vineyard sent in his resignation as member of the council. That body refused to receive it, or to have it read even ; but at once expelled him. The second and last session of the third Legislative Assembly came to a close Feb. 18, 1842.

For the next six years there were seven sessions of the territorial legislature, as follows: First session, 4th Legislative Assembly, commenced Dec. 5, 1842, ended April 17, 1843; second sesssion, 4th Legislative Assembly, commenced Dec. 4, 1843, ended Jan. 31, 1844; third session, 4th Legislative Assembly, commenced Jan. 6, 1845, ended Feb. 24, 1845; fourth session, 4th Legislative Assembly, commenced Jan 5, 1846, ended Feb. 3, 1846; first session, 5th Legislative Assembly, commenced Jan. 4, 1847, ended Feb. 11, 1847; special session, 5th Legislative Assembly, commenced Oct. 18, 1847, ended Oct. 27, 1847; second session, 5th Legislative Assembly, commenced Feb. 7, 1848, ended March 13, 1848.

The members of the first session of the fourth legislative assembly had been elected unded a new apportionment based upon a census taken in June, showing a total population of 46,678. In each house there was a democratic majority. Gov. Doty was a whig. It was a stormy session. After the two houses had organized, the governor refused to communicate with them, as a body legally assembled, according to the organic act, he claiming that no appropriation for that object had been made by Congress. The houses continued in session until the 10th day of December, when they adjourned until the 13th of January, 1843, they having meanwhile made representation to the National Legislature, then in session, of the objections of the governor. It was not until the 4th of February that a quorum in both houses had assembled. Previous to this, Congress had made an appropriation to cover the expenses of the session; and the governor, on the 13th of January, had issued a proclamation convening a special session on the 6th of March. Both houses in February adjourned to the day fixed by the governor, which ended the troubles; and the final adjournment took place, as already stated, April 17, 1843. Nathaniel P. Tallmadge

was appointed governor in place of Doty on the 21st of June, 1844, his commission bearing date the 16th of September. James K. Polk having been elected President of the United States in the fall of that year, Henry Dodge was again put in the executive chair of the territory, receiving his appointment April 8, 1845, and being commissioned May 13 following.

It was during the fourth session of the fourth legislative assembly that preliminary steps were taken, which resulted in the formation of a State government. The first Tuesday in April, 1846, was the day fixed upon for the people to vote for or against the proposition. When taken it resulted in a large majority voting in favor of the measure. An act was passed providing for taking the census of the territory, and for the apportionment by the governor of delegates to form a State constitution, based upon the new enumeration. The delegates were to be elected on the first Monday in September, and the convention was to assemble on the first Monday in October, 1846. The constitution when formed was to be submitted to the vote of the people for adoption or rejection, as, at the close of the session, the the terms of members of the council who had been elected for four years, and of the house, who had been elected for two years, all ended. The legislature re-organized the election districts, and conferred on the governor the power and duty of making an apportionment, based on the census to be taken, for the next Legislative Assembly, when, on the 3d of February, 1846, both houses adjourned *sine die.* The census taken in the following June showed a population for the territory of 155,217. Delegates having been elected to form a constitution for the proposed new State, met at Madison on the 5th day of October. After completing their labors, they adjourned. This event took place on the 16th of December, 1846. The constitution thus formed was submitted to a popular vote on the first Tuesday of April, 1847, and rejected. A special session of the legislature, to take action concerning the admission of Wisconsin into the Union began Oct. 18, 1847, and a law was passed for the holding of another convention to frame a constitution. Delegates to the new convention were elected on the last Monday of November, and that body met at Madison the 15th of December, 1847. A census of the territory was taken this year, which showed a population of 210,546. The result of the labors of the second constitutional convention was the formation of a constitution, which, being submitted to the people on the second Monday of March, 1848, was duly ratified. On the 29th of May, 1848, by act of Congress, Wisconsin became a State.

It may be here premised that the western boundary of the new State left out a full organized county, with a sheriff, clerk of court, judge of probate, and justices of the peace. A bill had been introduced at a previous session in Congress, by Morgan L. Martin, the delegate from Wisconsin, to organize a territorial government for Minnesota, including the district left out on the admission of Wisconsin; but which failed to become a law. The citizens of what is now Minnesota were very anxious to obtain a territorial government, and two public meetings were held—one at St. Paul, and the other at Stillwater—advising John Catlin, who was secretary of Wisconsin, to issue a proclamation as the acting governor, for the election of a delegate to represent what was left of the territory of Wisconsin. Mr. Catlin repaired to Stillwater and issued a proclamation accordingly. H. H. Sibley was elected; nearly 400 votes having been polled at the election. Sibley was admitted to his seat on the floor of Congress by a vote of two to one. His admission facilitated and hastened the passage of a bill for the organization of a territorial government for Minnesota.

CHAPTER III.

WISCONSIN AS A STATE.

The State of Wisconsin is bounded on the north by Minnesota and Michigan; on the east by the State last mentioned; on the south, by Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota; and on the west, by the two last named States. Its boundaries, as more particularly described, are as follows: Beginning at its northeast corner of the State of Illinois, that is to say, at a point in the center of Lake Michigan, where the line of forty-two degrees and thirty minutes of north latitude, crosses the same; thence running with the boundary line of the State of Michigan, through Lake Michigan [and] Green bay to the mouth of the Menomonee river; thence up the channel of the said river to the Brule river; thence up said last mentioned river to Lake Brule; thence along the southern shore of Lake Brule, in a direct line to the center of the channel between Middle and South islands, in the Lake of the Desert; thence in a direct line to the head waters of the Montreal river, as marked upon the survey made by Captain Cram; thence down the main channel of the Montreal river to the middle of Lake Superior; thence through the center of Lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Louis river; thence up the main channel of said river to the first rapids in the same, above the Indian village, according to Nicollett's map, thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix; thence down the main channel of said river to the Mississippi; thence down the center of the main channel of that river to the northwest corner of the State of Illinois; thence due east with the northern boundary of the State of Illinois to the place of beginning. The general shape of Wisconsin is that of an irregular pentagon. Its land area is 53,924 square miles; and, in respect to size, it ranks with the other States as the 15th. It is known as one of the North Central States, east of the Mississippi. It extends from 9 degrees 50 minutes to 15 degrees 50 minutes west longitude from Washington city, and from 42 degrees 30 minutes to about 47 degrees 30 minutes north latitude. It has Lake Michigan on the east, Green bay, Menomonee and Brule rivers, Lake Vieux Desert, the Montreal river, Lake Superior and the St. Louis river; on the northeast and north; and, on the west, the St. Croix and the Mississippi rivers.* The average length of the State is about 260 miles; its average breadth 215 miles. The surface features of Wisconsin present a configuration between the mountainous, on the one hand, and a monotonous level, on the other. The State occupies a swell of land lying between three notable depressions: Lake Michigan, on the east; Lake Superior, on the north; and the valley of the Mississippi, on the west. From these depressions the surface slopes upward to the summit altitudes. Scattered over the State are prominent hills, but no mountains. Some of these hills swell upward into rounded domes, some ascend precipitously into castellated towers; and some reach prominence without regard to beauty

"*The boundary of Wisconsin is commonly given as Lake Superior and the State of Michigan on the north, and Michigan and Lake Michigan on the east, and sometimes, also, the Mississippi river is given as a part of the western boundary. These boundaries are not the true ones. The State of Wisconsin extends to the center of Lakes Michigan and Superior, and to the center of the main channel of the Mississippi river. As the States of Wisconsin and Michigan meet in the center of Lake Michigan, it is not Lake Michigan that bounds Wisconsin on the east, but the State of Michigan, and so on. The correct boundary of Wisconsin in general terms, is as follows: Wisconsin is bounded north by Minnesota and Michigan, east by Michigan, south by Illinois, and west by Iowa and Minnesota."—*A. O. Wright.*

or form or convenience of description. The highest peak, in the southwestern part of the State, is the West Blue Mound, 1,151 feet above Lake Michigan; in the eastern part, Lapham's Peak, 824 feet; in the central part, Rib Hill, 1,263 feet; while the crest of the Penokee Range, in the northern part, rises upward of 1,000 feet. The drainage systems correspond, in general, to the topographical features before described. The face of the State is the growth of geologic ages furrowed by the teardrops of the skies.

The constitution of Wisconsin provided for the election of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of State, treasurer and attorney general, as the officers of State. The first State election was held May 8, 1848, when, not only State officers were chosen, but members of the Legislature and members of Congress. The following are the names of the governors elected and the terms they have served, since Wisconsin became a State: Nelson Dewey, June 7, 1848 to Jan. 5, 1852; Leonard J. Farwell, Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 5, 1854; William A. Barstow, Jan. 2, 1854, to March 21, 1856; Arthur McArthur, † March 21, to March 25, 1856; Coles Bashford, March 25, 1856, to Jan. 4, 1858; Alexander W. Randall, Jan. 4, 1858, to Jan. 6, 1862; Louis P. Harvey, Jan. 6, 1862, to April 19, 1862; Edward Solomon, † April 19, 1862, to Jan. 4, 1864; James T. Lewis, Jan. 4, 1864, to Jan. 1, 1866; Lucius Farchild, Jan. 1, 1866, to Jan. 1, 1872; C. C. Washburn, Jan. 1, 1872, to Jan. 5, 1874; William R. Taylor, Jan. 5, 1874, to Jan. 3, 1876; Harrison Ludington, Jan. 3, 1876, to Jan. 7, 1878; William E. Smith, Jan. 7, 1878 to Jan. 2, 1882, Jeremiah M. Rusk, Jan. 2, 1882, and still in office.

The gubernatorial vote of Wisconsin since its admission into the Union was as follows:

1848.

Dewey, democrat	19,538
Tweedy, whig	14,449
Dewey's majority	5,089

† *Ex-Officio.*

1849.

Dewey, democrat	16,649
Collins, whig	11,317
Dewey's majority	5,332

1851.

Farwell, whig	22,319
Upham, democrat	21,812
Farwell's majority	507

1853.

Barstow, democrat	30,405
Holton, republican	21,886
Baird, whig	3,334
Barstow's plurality	8,519

1855.

Barstow, democrat	36,355
Bashford, republican	36,198
Barstow's majority	*157

1857.

Randall, republican	44,693
Cross, democrat	44,239
Randall's majority	454

1859.

Randall, republican	59,999
Hobart, democrat	52,539
Randall's majority	7,460

1861.

Harvey, republican	53,777
Ferguson, democrat	45,456
Harvey's majority	8,321

1863.

Lewis, republican	72,717
Palmer, democrat	49,053
Lewis' majority	23,664

1865.

Fairchild, republican	58,332
Hobart, democrat	48,330
Fairchild's majority	10,002

1867.

Fairchild, republican	73,637
Tallmadge, democrat	68,873
Fairchild's majority	4,764

*This certificate was set aside by the supreme court.

1869.

Fairchild, republican	69,502
Robinson, democrat	61,239
Fairchilds' majority	8,263

1871.

Washburn, republican	78,301
Doolittle, democrat	68,910
Washburn's majority	9,391

1873.

Taylor, democrat	81,599
Washburn, republican	66,224
Taylor's majority	15,375

1875.

Ludington, republican	85,155
Taylor, democrat	84,314
Ludington's majority	841

1877.

Smith, republican	78,759
Mallory, democrat	70,486
Allis, greenback	26,216
Smith's majority	8,273

1879.

Smith, republican	100,535
Jenkins, democrat	75,080
May, greenback	12,096
Smith's majority over both	12,509

1881.

Rusk, republican	81,754
Fratt, democrat	69,797
Kanouse, prohibition	13,225
Allis, greenback	7,002
Rusk's plurality	11,957

The following are the names of the lieutenant governors and their terms of service, since Wisconsin became a State: John E. Holmes, June 7, 1848, to Jan. 7, 1850; Samuel W. Beall, Jan. 7, 1850, to Jan. 5, 1852; Timothy Burns, Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 2, 1854; James T. Lewis, Jan. 2, 1854, to Jan. 7, 1856; Arthur McArthur, Jan. 7, 1856, to Jan. 4, 1858; E. D. Campbell, Jan. 4, 1858, to Jan. 2, 1860; Butler G. Noble, Jan. 2,) 1860 to Jan. 6, 1862; Edward Solomon, Jan. 6, 1862, to April 19, 1862; Gerry W. Hazelton, (*ex-officio*), Sept. 10, 1862, to Sept. 26, 1862; Wyman Spooner, Jan. 14, 1863, to Jan. 3, 1870; Thaddeus C. Pound, Jan. 3, 1870, to Jan. 1, 1872; Milton H. Pettit, Jan. 1, 1872, to March 23, 1873; Charles D. Parker, Jan. 5, 1874, to Jan. 7, 1878; James M. Bingham, Jan. 7, 1878, to Jan. 2, 1882; Samuel S. Fifield, Jan. 2, 1882, and still in office.

The following are the persons that have been elected secretaries of State, with their terms of office, since the State was admitted into the Union:

Thomas McHugh, June 7, 1848, to Jan. 7, 1850; William A. Barstow, Jan. 7, 1850, to Jan. 5, 1852; C. D. Robinson, Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 2, 1854; Alexander T. Gray, Jan. 2, 1854, to Jan. 7, 1856; David W. Jones, Jan. 7, 1856, to Jan. 2, 1860; Louis P. Harvey, Jan. 2, 1860, to Jan. 6, 1862; James T. Lewis, Jan. 6, 1862, to Jan. 4, 1864; Lucius Fairchild, Jan. 4, 1864, to Jan. 1, 1866; Thomas S. Allen, Jan. 1, 1836, to Jan. 3, 1870; Llywelyn Breese, Jan. 3, 1870, to Jan. 5, 1874; Peter Doyle, Jan. 5, 1874, to January 7, 1878; Ham B. Warner, Jan. 7, 1878, to Jan. 2, 1882; Ernest G. Timme, Jan. 2, 1882 and still in office.

The treasurers, with their terms of office, have been as follows:

Jairus C. Fairchild, June 7, 1848, to Jan. 5, 1852; Edward H. Janssen, Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 7, 1856; Charles Kuehn, Jan. 7, 1856, to Jan 4. 1858; Samuel D. Hastings, Jan. 4, 1858, to Jan. 1, 1866; William E. Smith, Jan. 1, 1866, to Jan. 3, 1870; Henry Baetz, Jan. 3, 1870 to Jan. 5, 1874; Ferdinand Kuehn, Jan. 5, 1874, to Jan. 7, 1878; Richard Guenther, Jan. 7, 1878, to Jan. 2, 1882; Edward C. McFetridge, Jan. 2, 1882 and still in office.

Attorneys-General, with their terms of office, have been elected as follows:

James S. Brown, June 7, 1848, to Jan. 7, 1850; S. Park Coon, Jan. 7, 1850, to Jan. 5, 1852; Experience Estabrook, Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 2, 1854; George B. Smith, Jan. 2, 1854, to Jan. 7, 1856; William R. Smith, Jan. 7, 1856, to Jan. 4, 1858; Gabriel Bouck, Jan. 4, 1858 to Jan. 2, 1860;

James H. Howe, Jan. 2, 1860, to Oct. 7, 1862; Winfield Smith, Oct. 7, 1862, to Jan. 1, 1866; Charles R. Gill, Jan. 2, 1866 to Jan. 3, 1870; Stephen S. Barlow, Jan. 3, 1870, to Jan. 5, 1874; A. Scott Sloan, Jan. 5, 1874, to Jan. 7, 1878; Alexander Wilson, Jan. 7, 1878, to Jan. 2, 1882; Leander F. Frisby, Jan. 2, 1882, and still in office.

The constitution divided the State into nineteen senatorial and sixty-six assembly districts. In each of these districts, on the 8th of May, 1848, one member was elected.

The first Legislature of the State began its session at Madison, the capital, where all subsequent ones have convened. The commencement and ending of each session, with the names of the speakers, were as follows.

Ninean E. Whiteside, June 5, 1848, to August 21.

Harrison C. Hobart, Jan. 10, 1849, to April 2.
Moses M. Strong, Jan. 9, 1850, to February 11.
Frederick W. Horn, Jan. 8, 1851, to March 17.
James M. Shafer, Jan. 14, 1852, to April 19.
Henry L. Palmer, Jan. 12, 1853, to April 4.
Henry L. Palmer, June 6, 1853, to July 13.
Frederick W. Horn, Jan. 11, 1854, to April 3.
Charles C. Sholes, Jan. 10, 1855, to April 2.
William Hull, Jan. 9, 1856, to March 31.
William Hull, Sept. 3, 1856, to October 14.
Wyman Spooner, Jan. 14, 1857, to March 9.
Frederick S. Lovell, Jan. 13, 1858, to May 17.
William P. Lyon, Jan. 12, 1859, to March 21.
William P. Lyon, Jan. 11, 1860, to April 2.
Amasa Cobb, Jan. 9, 1861, to April 17.
Amasa Cobb, May 15, 1861, to May 27.
James W. Beardsley, Jan. 8, 1862, to April 7.
JamesW. Beardsley, June 3, 1862, to June 17.
James W. Beardsley, Sept. 10, 1862, to Sept. 26.

J. Allen Barker, Jan. 14, 1863, to April 2.
William W. Field, Jan. 13, 1864, to April 4.
William W. Field, Jan. 11, 1865, to April 10.
Henry D. Barron, Jan. 10, 1866, to April 12.
Angus Cameron, Jan. 9, 1867, to April 11.

Alexander M. Thomson, Jan. 8, 1868 to March 6.

Alexander M. Thomson, Jan. 13, 1869, to March 11.

James M. Bingham, Jan. 12, 1870, to March 17.

William E. Smith, Jan. 11, 1871, to March 25.
Daniel Hall, Jan. 10, 1872, to March 26.
Henry D. Barron, Jan. 8, 1873, to March 20.
Gabe Bouck, Jan. 14, 1874, to March 12.
Frederick W. Horn, Jan. 13, 1875, to March 6.
Samuel S. Fifield, Jan. 12, 1876, to March 14.
John B. Cassoday, Jan. 10, 1877, to March 8.

Augustus R. Barrows, Jan. 9, 1878, to March 21.

Augustus R. Barrows, June 4, 1878, to June 7.
David M. Kelley, Jan. 8, 1879, to March 5.

Alexander A. Arnold, Jan. 14, 1880, to March 17.

Ira D. Bradford, Jan. 12, 1881, to April 4.
Franklin L. Gilson, Jan. 11, 1882, to March 31.
Earl P. Finch, Jan. 10, 1883, to April 4.

The constitution divided the State into two congressional districts, in each of which one member of Congress was elected May 8, 1848. The first district embraced the counties of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Racine, Walworth, Rock and Green; the second district was composed of the counties of Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet, Brown, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Marquette, Sauk, Portage, Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Richland, Crawford, Chippewa, St. Croix and La Pointe—the counties of Richland, Chippewa and La Pointe being unorganized. (It may here be stated that the first Legislature changed the apportionment, making three districts; other apportionments have been made at each decade, so that there are now nine congressional districts.) The first members were elected to the XXXth Congress, which expired March 4, 1849. The members elected from Wisconsin to that and subsequent Congresses are:

XXXth Congress, 1847–9.

First District.—William Pitt Lynde. *
Second District.—Mason C. Darling. *

XXXIst Congress, 1849—51.

First District.—Charles Durkee.
Second District.—Orsamus Cole.
Third District.—James Duane Doty.

XXXIId Congress, 1851–53.

First District.—Charles Durkee.
Second District.—Ben. C Eastman.
Third District.—John B. Macy.

XXXIIId Congress, 1853–55.

First District —Daniel Wells, Jr.
Second District —Ben C. Eastman.
Third District.—John B. Macy.

XXXIVth Congress, 1855–57.

First District.—Daniel Wells, Jr.
Second District.—C. C. Washburn.
Third District.—Charles Billinghurst.

XXXVth Congress, 1857–59.

First District—John F. Potter.
Second District.—C. C. Washburn.
Third District.—Charles Billinghurst.

XXXVIth Congress, 1859–61.

First District.—John F. Potter.
Second District.—C. C. Washburn.
Third District.—Charles H. Larrabee.

XXXVIIth Congress, 1861–63.

First District.—John F. Potter.
Second District.—Luther Hanchett, † Walter McIndoe.
Third District.—A. Scott Sloan.

XXXVIIIth Congress, 1863–65.

First District.—James S. Brown.
Second District.—Ithamar C. Sloan.
Third District.—Amasa Cobb.
Fourth District.—Charles A. Eldredge.
Fifth District.—Ezra Wheeler.
Sixth District.—Walter D. McIndoe.

XXXIXth Congress, 1865–67.

First District.—Halbert E. Paine.
Second District.—Ithamar C. Sloan.
Third District.—Amasa Cobb.
Fourth District.—Charles A. Eldredge.
Fifth District.—Philetus Sawyer.
Sixth District.—Walter D. McIndoe.

* Took their seats June 5 and 9, 1848.
† Died Nov. 24, 1862; McIndoe elected to fill the vacancy, Dec. 30, 1862.

XLth Congress, 1867–69.

First District—Halbert E. Paine.
Second District.—Benjamin F. Hopkins.
Third District.—Amasa Cobb.
Fourth District—Charles A. Eldredge.
Fifth District.—Philetus Sawyer.
Sixth District.—Cadwallader C. Washburn.

XLIst Congress, 1869–71.

First District.—Halbert E. Paine.
Second District.—Benjamin F. Hopkins. ‡ David Atwood.
Third District.—Amasa Cobb.
Fourth District.—Charles A. Eldredge.
Fifth District.—Philetus Sawyer.
Sixth District —Cadwallader C. Washburn.

XLIId Congress, 1871–73.

First District.—Alexander Mitchell.
Second District.—Gerry W. Hazelton.
Third District.—J. Allen Barber.
Fourth District.—Charles A. Eldredge.
Fifth District.—Philetus Sawyer.
Sixth District.—Jeremiah M. Rusk.

XLIIId Congress, 1873–75.

First District.—Charles G Williams.
Second District.—Gerry W. Hazelton.
Third District.—J. Allen Barber.
Fourth District.—Alexander Mitchell.
Fifth District.—Charles A. Eldredge.
Sixth District.—Philetus Sawyer
Seventh District.—Jeremiah M. Rusk.
Eighth District.—Alexander S. McDill.

XLIVth Congress, 1875–77.

First District.—Charles G. Williams.
Second District.—Lucien B. Caswell.
Third District.—Henry S. Magoon.
Fourth District.—William Pitt Lynde.
Fifth District.—Samuel D. Burchard.
Sixth District.—Alanson M. Kimball.
Seventh District.—Jeremiah M. Rusk.
Eighth District.—George W. Cate.

XLVth Congress, 1877–79.

First District.—Charles G. Williams.
Second District.—Lucien B. Caswell.
Third District.—George C. Hazelton.
Fourth District.—William Pitt Lynde.
Fifth District.—Edward S. Bragg.
Sixth District.—Gabriel Bouck.
Seventh District.—Herman L. Humphrey.
Eighth District.—Thaddeus C. Pound.

‡ Died Jan. 1, 1870, and David Atwood elected to fill vacancy Feb. 15, 1870.

XLVIth Congress, 1879–81.

First District.—Charles G. Williams.
Second District.—Lucien B. Caswell.
Third District.—George C. Hazelton.
Fourth District.—Peter V. Deuster.
Fifth District.—Edward S. Bragg.
Sixth District.—Gabriel Bouck.
Seventh District.—Herman L. Humphrey.
Eighth District —Thaddeus C. Pound.

XLVIIth Congress, 1881–83.

First District.—Charles G. Williams.
Second District.—Lucien B. Caswell.
Third District.—George C. Hazelton.
Fourth District.—Peter V. Deuster.
Fifth District.—Edward S. Bragg.
Sixth District.—Richard Guenther.
Seventh District.—Herman L. Humphrey.
Eighth District —Thaddeus C. Pound.

XLVIIIth Congress, 1883–85.

First District.—John Winans.
Second District.—Daniel H. Sumner.
Third District.—Burr W. Jones.
Fourth District.—Peter V. Deuster.
Fifth District.—Joseph Rankin.
Sixth District —Richard Guenther,
Seventh District.—Gilbert M. Woodward.
Eighth District.—William T. Price.
Ninth District.—Isaac Stephenson.

The first Legislature in joint convention, on the 7th of June 1848, canvassed, in accordance with the constitution, the votes given on the 8th of May, for the State officers, and the two representatives in Congress. On the same day the State officers were sworn into office. The next day Gov. Dewey delivered his first message to the Legislature. The first important business of the first State Legislature was the election of two United States senators; Henry Dodge and Isaac P. Walker, both democrats, were elected. The latter drew the short term; so that his office expired on the 4th day of March, 1849, at the end of the thirteenth Congress; as Dodge drew the long term, his office expired on the 4th day of March, 1851, at the end of thirty-first Congress. Both were elected, June 8, 1848. Their successors, with the date of their elections, were as follows: Isaac P. Walker, Jan. 17, 1849; Henry Dodge, Jan. 20, 1851 ; Charles Durkee, Feb. 1, 1855; James R. Doolittle, Jan. 23, 1857; Timothy O. Howe, Jan. 23, 1861; James R. Doolittle, Jan. 22, 1863; Timothy O. Howe, Jan. 24, 1867 ; Matthew H. Carpenter, Jan. 26, 1869 ; Timothy O. Howe, Jan. 21, 1873; Angus Cameron, Feb. 3, 1875 ; Matthew H. Carpenter, Jan. 22, 1879; Philetus Sawyer, Jan. 26, 1881 ; Angus Cameron, March 10, 1881.

The constitution vested the judicial power of the State in a supreme court, circuit court, courts of probate, and justices of the peace, giving the Legislature power to vest such jurisdiction as should be deemed necessary in municipal courts. Judges were not to be elected at any State or county election, nor within thirty days before or after one. The State was divided into five judicial circuits, Edward V. Whiton being chosen judge at the election on the first Monday in August, 1848, of the first circuit, composed of the counties of Racine, Walworth, Rock and Green as then constituted; Levi Hubbell, of the second, composed of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson and Dane; Charles H. Larrabee, of the third, composed of Washington, Dodge, Columbia, Marquette, Sauk and Portage, as then formed; Alexander W. Stow, of the fourth, composed of Brown, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Winnebago and Calumet; and Mortimer M. Jackson, of the fifth, composed of the counties of Iowa, LaFayette, Grant, Crawford and St Croix, as then organized ; the county of Richland being attached to Iowa county ; the county of Chippewa to the county of Crawford ; and the county of La Pointe to the county of St. Croix, for judicial purposes. In 1850, a sixth circuit was formed. By an act, which took effect in 1854, a seventh circuit was formed. On the 1st day of January, 1855, an eighth and ninth circuit was formed. In the same year was also formed a tenth circuit. An eleventh circuit was formed in 1864. By an act which took effect the 1st day of January, 1871, the twelfth circuit was formed. In 1876 a thirteenth circuit was "constituted and re-organ

ized." At the present time John M. Wentworth is judge of the first circuit, which is composed of the counties of Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha; Charles A. Hamilton of the second, which includes Milwaukee county; David J. Pulling of the third, composed of Calumet, Green Lake and Winnebago; Norman S. Gilson of the fourth, composed of Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Fond du Lac; George Clementson of the fifth, composed of Grant, Iowa, La Fayette, Richland and Crawford; Alfred W. Newman of the sixth, composed of Clark, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon; Charles M. Webb of the seventh, composed of Portage, Marathon, Waupaca, Wood, Waushara, Lincoln, Price, and Taylor; Egbert B. Bundy of the eighth, composed of Buffalo, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, and St. Croix; Alva Stewart of the ninth, composed of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Sauk, Marquette; George H. Myres, of the tenth, composed of Florence, Langlade, Outagamie, and Shawano; Solon C. Clough of the eleventh, composed of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Polk, and Washburn; John R. Bennett of the twelfth, composed of Rock, Green, and Jefferson; A. Scott Sloan, of the thirteenth, composed of Dodge, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha; Samuel D. Hastings of the fourteenth, composed of Brown, Door, Mainette and Oconto.

The first Legislature provided for the re-election of judges of the circuit courts on the first Monday of August, 1848. By the same act it was provided that the first term of the supreme court should be held in Madison, on the second Monday of January, 1849, and thereafter at the same place and on the same day, yearly; afterward changed so as to hold a January and June term in each year. Under the constitution, the circuit judges were also judges of the supreme court. One of their own number under an act of June 29, 1848, was to be, by themselves, elected chief justice. Under this arrangement, the following were the justices of the supreme court, at the times indicated: Alex. W. Stow, C. J., fourth, district, Aug. 28, 1848, to Jan. 1, 1851; Edward V. Whiton, A. J., first circuit, Aug. 28, 1848, to June 1, 1853; Levi Hubbell, A. J., elected chief justice, June 18, 1851, second circuit, Aug. 28, 1848, to June 1, 1853; Charles H. Larrabee, A. J., third circuit, Aug. 28, 1848, to June 1, 1853; Mortimer M. Jackson, A. J., fifth circuit, Aug. 28, 1848, to June 1, 1853; Timothy O. Howe, A. J., fourth circuit, Jan. 1, 1851, to June 1, 1853; Wiram Knowlton, A. J., sixth circuit, organized by the Legislature in 1850, Aug. 6, 1850, to June 1, 1853. In 1853, the supreme court was separately organized, the chief justice and associate justices being voted for as such. The following persons have constituted that court during the terms indicated, since its separate organization: Edward V. Whiton, C. J., June 1, 1853, to April 12, 1859; Luther S. Dixon, C. J., April 20, 1859, to June 17 1874; Edward G. Ryan, C. J., June 17, 1874, to Oct. 19, 1880; Orsamus Cole, C. J., Nov. 11, 1880, (in office); Samuel Crawford, A. J., June 1, 1853, to June 19, 1855; Abraham D. Smith, A. J., June 1, 1853, to June 21, 1859; Orsamus Cole, A. J., June 19, 1855, to Nov. 11, 1880; Byron Paine, A. J., June 21, 1859, to Nov. 15, 1864; Jason Downer, A. J., Nov. 15, 1864, to Sept. 11, 1867; Byron Paine, A. J., Sept. 11, 1867, to Jan. 13, 1871; William P. Lyon, A. J., Jan. 20, 1870, (in office); David Taylor, A. J., April 18, 1878, (in office); Harlow S. Orton, A. J., April 18, 1878, (in office); John B. Cassoday, A. J., Nov. 11, 1880, (in office).

The act of Congress entitled "An act to enable the people of Wisconsin territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of such State into the Union," approved Aug. 6, 1846, provided for one United States judicial district to be called the district of Wisconsin. It was also provided that a district court should be held therein by one judge who should reside in the district and be called a district judge. The court was to hold two

terms a year in the capital, Madison. This was afterward changed so that one term only was held at the seat of the State government, while the other was to be held at Milwaukee. Special terms could be held at either of these places. On the 12th day of June, 1848, Andrew G. Miller was appointed by the President district judge. By the act of Congress of July 15, 1862, a circuit court of the United States was created to be held in Wisconsin. The district judge was given power to hold the circuit court in Wisconsin in company with the circuit judge and circuit justice, or either of them, or alone in their absence. Wisconsin now composes a portion of the seventh judicial circuit of the United States, Thomas Drummond being circuit judge. He resides at Chicago. The circuit justice is one of judges of the United States supreme court. Two terms of the circuit court are held each year at Milwaukee and one term in Madison.

In 1870 the State was divided into two districts, the eastern and western. In the western district, one term of the United States district court each year was to be held at Madison and one at La Crosse; in the eastern district, two terms were to be held at Milwaukee and one at Oshkosh. On the 9th day of July, 1870, James C. Hopkins was appointed judge of the western district, Andrew G. Miller remaining judge of the eastern district. The latter resigned to take effect Jan. 1, 1874, and James H. Howe was appointed to fill the vacancy; but Judge Howe soon resigned, and Charles E. Dyer, on the 10th of February, 1875, appointed in his place. He is still in office. Judge Hopkins, of the western district, died Sept. 4, 1877; when, on the 13th of October following, Romanzo Bunn was appointed his successor, and now fills that office.

An act was passed by the first Legislature providing for the election and defining the duties of a State superintendent of public instruction. The persons holding that office, with the term of each, are as follows: Eleazer Root, from Jan. 1, 1849, to Jan. 5, 1852; Azel P. Ladd, from Jan. 5, 1852, to Jan. 2, 1854; Hiram A. Wright, from Jan. 5, 1854, to May 29, 1855; A. Constantine Barry, from June 26, 1855, to Jan. 4, 1858; Lyman C. Draper, from Jan. 4, 1858, to Jan. 2, 1860; Josiah L. Pickard, from Jan. 2, 1860, to Sept. 30, 1864; John G. McMynn, from Oct. 1, 1864, to Jan. 6, 1868; Alexander J. Craig, from Jan. 6, 1868, to Jan. 3, 1870; Samuel Fallows, from Jan. 6, 1870, to Jan. 4, 1874; Edward Searing, from Jan. 4, 1874, to Jan 7, 1878; William C. Whitford, from Jan. 7, 1878, to Jan. 2, 1882; Robert Graham, from Jan. 2, 1882, (now in office.) By the same Legislature, a State University was established. The school system of Wisconsin embraces graded schools, to be found in all the cities and larger villages, the district schools, organized in the smaller villages and in the country generally, besides the University of Wisconsin, (located at Madison, the capital of the State). The university has three departments: the college of letters, the college of arts, and the college of law. It was founded upon a grant of seventy-two sections of land made by Congress to the territory of Wisconsin. That act required the secretary of the treasury to set apart and reserve from sale, out of any public lands within the territory of Wisconsin, "a quantity of land, not exceeding two entire townships, for the support of a university within the said territory and for no other use or purpose whatsoever; to be located in tracts of land not less than an entire section corresponding with any of the legal divisions into which the public lands are authorized to be surveyed." The territorial Legislature, at its session in 1838, passed a law incorporating the "University of the Territory of Wisconsin," locating the same at or near Madison. In 1841 a commissioner was appointed to select the lands donated to the State for the maintenance of the university, who performed the duty assigned to him in a most acceptable manner. Section 6 of article X of the State constitution provides that "pro-

vision shall be made by law for the establishment of a State University at or near the seat of government. The proceeds of all lands that have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States to the State, for the support of a University shall be and remain a perpetual fund, to be called the 'University fund,' the interest of which shall be appropriated to the support of the State University." Immediately upon the organization of the State government an act was passed incorporating the State University, and a board of regents appointed, who at once organized the institution.

The University was formally opened by the public inauguration of a chancellor, Jan. 16, 1850. The preparatory department of the University was opened Feb. 5, 1849, with twenty pupils. In 1849 the regents purchased nearly 200 acres of land, comprising what is known as the "University Addition to the City of Madison," and the old "University Grounds." In 1851 the north dormitory was completed, and the first college classes formed. In 1854 the south dormitory was erected. Owing to the fact that the lands comprising the original grant had produced a fund wholly inadequate to the support of the university, in 1854 a further grant of seventy-two sections of land was made by Congress to the State for that purpose. In 1866 the University was completely re-organized, so as to meet the requirements of a law of Congress passed in 1862, providing for the endowment of agricultural colleges. That act granted to the several States a quantity of land equal to 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in Congress, by the apportionment under the census of 1860. The objects of that grant are fully set forth in sections four and five of said act. The lands received by Wisconsin under said act of Congress, and conferred upon the State University for the support of an agricultural college, amounted to 240,000 acres, making a total of 322,160 acres of land donated to this State by the general government for the endowment and support of this institution. Up to the time of its re-organization, the University had not received one dollar from the State or from any municipal corporation. In pursuance of a law passed in 1866, Dane county issued bonds to the amount of $40,000 for the purchase of about 200 acres of land contiguous to the University grounds for an experimental farm, and for the erection of suitable buildings thereon. The next winter the Legislature passed a law which appropriated annually for ten years to the income of the University Fund, $7,308.76, that being the interest upon the sum illegally taken from the fund by the law of 1862 to pay for the erection of buildings.

In 1870 the Legislature appropriated $50,000 for the erection of a female college, which is the first contribution made outright to the upbuilding of any institution of learning in this State. In order to comply with the law granting lands for the support of agricultural colleges, the University was compelled to make large outlays in fitting up laboratories and purchasing the apparatus necessary for instruction and practical advancement in the arts immediately connected with the industrial interests of the State, a burden which the Legislature very generously shared by making a further annual appropriation in 1872 of $10,000 to the income of the University Fund. The increased facilities offered by improvements in the old and by the erection of a new college building proved wholly inadequate to meet the growing wants of the institution. In its report for 1874, the board of visitors said: "A hall of natural sciences is just now the one desideratum of the University. It can never do the work it ought to do, the work the State expects it to do, without some speedily increased facilities." The Legislature promptly responded to this demand, and at its next session appropriated $30,000 for the erection of a building for scientific purposes. In order to permanently provide for deficiencies in the University Fund income, and to establish the institution upon a firm and enduring foundation, the Legislature of 1876 enacted

"That there shall be levied and collected for the year 1876 and annually thereafter, a State tax of one-tenth of one mill for each dollar of the assessed valuation of the taxable property of this State, and the amount so levied and collected is hereby appropriated to the University Fund income, to be used as a part thereof." This is in lieu of all other appropriations for the benefit of this fund, and all tuition fees for students in the regular classes are abolished by this act.

The fourth section of the act of 1876, to permanently provide for deficiencies in the University Fund income, is as follows: "From and out of the receipts of said tax, the sum of$3,000 annually shall be set apart for astronomical work and for instruction in astronomy, to be expended under the direction of the regents of the University of Wisconsin, as soon as a complete and well equipped observatory shall be given the University, on its own grounds without cost to the State: *Provided*, that such observatory shall be completed within three years from the passage of this act." The astronomical observatory whose construction was provided for by this act, was erected by the wise liberality of ex-Gov. Washburn. It is a beautiful stone building, finely situated and well fitted for its work. Its length is eighty feet, its breadth forty-two feet, and its height forty-eight feet. Over the door to the rotunda is a marble tablet bearing this inscription: "Erected and furnished, A. D. 1878, by the munificence of Cadwallader C. Washburn, and by him presented to the University of Wisconsin; a tribute to general science. In recognition of this gift, this tablet is inserted by the regents of the University." The telescope has a sixteen inch object-glass. The size is a most desirable one for the great mass of astronomical work. In 1881 a students' observatory was erected and a wing was added to the east side of the Washburn observatory.

In the fall of 1848 there was a Presidential election. There were then three organized political parties in the State—whig, democrat and free-soil, each having a ticket in the field; but the democrats were in the majority. The successful electors for that year and for each four years since that date, were as follows:

1848. Elected November 7.

At Large—Francis Huebschmann.
Wm. Dunwiddie.
First District—David P. Maples
Second District—Samuel F. Nichlos.

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1852. Elected November 2.

At Large—Montgomery M. Cothren.
Satterlee Clark.
First District—Philo White.
Second District—Beriah Brown.
Third District—Charles Billinghurst.

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1856. Elected November 4.

At Large—Edward D. Holton.
James H. Knowlton.
First District—Gregor Mencel.
Second District—Walter D. McIndoe.
Third District—Bille Williams.

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1860. Elected November 6.

At Large—Walter D. McIndoe.
Bradford Rixford.
First District—William W. Vaughan.
Second District—J. Allen Barber.
Third District—Herman Lindeman.

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1864. Elected November 8.

At Large—William W. Field
Henry L. Blood.
First District—George C. Northrop.
Second District—Jonathan Bowman.
Third District—Allen Warden.
Fourth District—Henry J. Turner.
Fifth District—Henry F. Belitz.
Sixth District—Alexander S. McDill.

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1868. Elected November 3.

At Large—Stephen S. Barlow.
Henry D. Barron.

First District—Elihu Enos.
Second District—Charles G. Williams.
Third District—Allen Warden.
Fourth District—Leander F. Frisby.
Fifth District—William G. Ritch.
Sixth District—William T. Price.

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1872. Elected November 5.

At Large—William E. Cramer.
Frederick Fleischer.
First District—Jerome S. Nickles.
Second District—George G. Swain.
Third District—Ormsby B. Thomas.
Fourth District—Frederick Hilgen.
Fifth District—Edward C. McFetridge.
Sixth District—George E. Hoskinson.
Seventh District—Romanzo Bunn.
Eighth District—Henry D. Barron.

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1876. Elected November 7.

At Large—William H. Hiner.
Francis Campbell.
First District—T D. Weeks.
Second District—T. D. Lang.
Third District—Daniel L. Downs.
Fourth District—Casper M. Sanger.
Fifth District—Charles Luling.
Sixth District—James H. Foster.
Seventh District—Charles B. Solberg.
Eighth District—John H. Knapp.

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1880. Elected November 2.

At Large—George End.
Knud Langland.
First District—Lucius S. Blake.
Second District—John Kellogg.
Third District—George E. Weatherby.
Fourth District—William P. McLaren.
Fifth District—C. T. Lovell.
Sixth District—E. L Browne.
Seventh District—F. H. Kribbs.
Eighth District—John T. Kingston.

The popular vote cast for President at each of the Presidential elections in Wisconsin, and the electoral vote cast for each successful candidate, were as follows:

Year.	CANDIDATES.	Popular Vote.	Electoral Vote.
1848	Zachary Taylor	13, 747	..
	Lewis Cass	15, 001	4
	Martin Van Buren	10, 418	..
1852	Franklin Pierce	33, 658	5
	Winfield Scott	22, 240	..
	John P. Hale	8, 814	..
1856	James Buchanan	52, 843	..
	John C. Fremont	66, 090	5
	Millard Fillmore	579	..
1860	Abraham Lincoln	86, 118	5
	John C. Breckinridge	888	..
	John Bell	161	..
	S. A. Douglas	65, 021	..
1864	Abraham Lincoln	83, 458	8
	Geo B. McClellan	65, 884	..
1868	Ulysses S. Grant	108, 857	8
	Horatio Seymour	84, 707	..
1872	Ulysses S. Grant	104, 997	10
	Horace Greeley	86, 477	..
	Charles O'Connor	834	..
1876	Rutherford B. Hayes	130, 668	10
	Samuel J. Tilden	123, 927	..
	Peter Cooper	1, 509	..
	G C. Smith	27	..
1880	James A Garfield	144, 398	10
	Winfield S. Hancock	114, 644	..
	J. B. Weaver	7, 986	..
	Neal Dow	68	..
	J B. Phelps	91	..

The act of the first Legislature of the State, exempting a homestead from forced sale on any debt or liability contracted after Jan. 1, 1849, and another act exempting certain personal property, were laws the most liberal in their nature passed by any State in the Union previous to that time. Other acts were passed—such as were deemed necessary to put the machinery of the State government in all its branches, in fair running order. And, by the second Legislature (1849) were enacted a number of laws of public utility. The statutes were revised, making a volume of over 900 pages. The year 1848 was one of general prosperity to the rapidly increasing population of the State; and that of 1849 developed in an increased ratio its productive capacity in every department of labor. The agriculturist, the artisan,

the miner, reaped the well-earned reward of his honest labor. The commercial and manufacturing interests were extended in a manner highly creditable to the enterprise of the people. The educational interests of the State began to assume a more systematic organization. The tide of immigration suffered no decrease during the year. Within the limits of Wisconsin, the oppressed of other climes continued to find welcome and happy homes. There were many attractions for emigrants from the Old World, especially from northern Europe—from Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark; also from Ireland and England.

The third Legislature changed the January term of the supreme court to December and organized a sixth judicial circuit. The first charitable institution in Wisconsin, incorporated by the State, was the "Wisconsin Institute for the Education of the Blind." A school for that unfortunate class had been opened in Janesville, in the latter part of 1849, receiving its support from the citizens of that place and vicinity. By an act of the Legislature, approved Feb. 9, 1850, this school was taken under the care of the Institute, to continue and maintain it, at Janesville, and to qualify, as far as might be, the blind of the State for the enjoyment of the blessings of a free government; for obtaining the means of subsistence; and for the discharge of those duties, social and political, devolving upon American citizens. It has since been supported from the treasury of the State. On the 7th of October, 1850, it was opened for the reception of pupils, under the direction of a board of trustees appointed by the governor. The other charitable institutions of the State are the State Hospital for the Insane, located near Madison, and opened for patients in July, 1860; Northern Hospital for the Insane, located near Oshkosh, to which patients were first admitted in April, 1873, and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, located at Delavan, in Walworth county.

The entire length of the building of the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane, situated on the north shore of Lake Mendota, in Dane county, is 569 feet, the center building being 65x120 feet. The first longitudinal wing on each side of the center is 132 feet, and the last on each extremity is 119 feet. The transverse wings are eighty-seven feet long. This commodious building is surrounded by ornamental grounds, woods and farming lands, to the extent of 393 acres, and is well adapted for the care of the unfortunate needing its protection. In 1879, additional room for 180 patients was added, by converting the old chapel into wards, and by the addition of cross wings in front of the old building. The hospital will now accommodate comfortably 550 patients. In 1870 a law was passed authorizing the erection of the building for the Northern Hospital, on a tract, consisting of 337 acres of land, about four miles north of the city of Oshkosh on the west shore of Lake Winnebago. The necessary appropriations were made, and the north wing and central building were completed. Further appropriations were made from time to time for additional wings, and in 1875 the hospital was completed according to the original design, at a total cost to the State of $625,250. The building has been constructed on the most approved plan, and is suited to accomodate 600 patients.

The land first occupied by the Wisconsin Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, comprising 11 46–100 acres, was donated by Hon. F. K. Phœnix, one of the first trustees, but the original boundaries have since been enlarged by the purchase of twenty-two acres. The main building was burned to the ground on the 16th of September, 1879; but during the year 1880 four new buildings were erected, and with the increased facilities provided, 250 children may be well cared for. The new buildings are a school house, boys' dormitory, dining-room and chapel, with a main or administration building. These buildings are plain, neat, substantial structures, and well fitted for the uses intended.

The Institution was originally a private school for the deaf, but was incorporated by act of the Legislature, April 19, 1852. It designs to educate that portion of the children and youth of the State, who, on account of deafness, cannot be educated in the public schools. Instruction is given by signs, by written language, and by articulation. In the primary department few books are used, slates, pencils, crayons, pictures, blocks and other illustrative apparatus being the means employed. In the intermediate department the books used are prepared especially for the deaf and dumb; more advanced pupils study text-books used in our common schools. The shoe shop commenced business in 1867;the printing office in 1878, and the bakery in 1881. The law provides that all deaf and dumb residents of the State of the age of ten years and under twenty-five, of suitable age and capacity to receive instruction, shall be received and taught free of charge for board and tuition, but parents and guardians are expected to furnish clothing and pay traveling expenses.

The taking of the census by the United State, this year, 1850, showed a population for Wisconsin of 305,391—the astonishing increase in two years of nearly 95,000. Many, as already stated, were German, Scandinavian and Irish; but the larger proportion were,of course,from the Eastern and Middle States of the Union. The principal attractions of Wisconsin were the excellency and cheapness of its lands, its valuable mines of lead, its extensive forests of pine, and the unlimited water-power of its numerous streams. In 1860 the population had increased to 775,881; in 1870 to 1,054,670, and in 1880 to 1,315,480. By an act of the fourth Legislature of the State, approved March 14, 1851, the location and erection of a State prison for Wisconsin was provided for, Waupim, Dodge county, being afterwards the point selected for it. The office of State prison commissioner was created in 1853, but was abolished in 1874. During that time the following persons held the office: John Taylor, from March 28, 1853 to April 2, 1853; Henry Brown, from April 2, 1853 to Jan. 2, 1854; Argalus W. Starks, from Jan. 2, 1854 to Jan. 7, 1856; Edward McGarry, from Jan 7, 1856 to Jan 4, 1858; Edward M. MacGraw, from Jan. 4, 1858 to Jan. 2, 1860; Hans C. Heg, from Jan. 2, 1860 to Jan. 6, 1862; Alexander P. Hodges, from Jan 6, 1862 to Jan. 4, 1864; Henry Cordier, from Jan 4, 1864 to Jan. 3, 1870; George F. Wheeler, from Jan. 3, 1870 to Jan. 4, 1874. The State (Law) Library had its origin in the generous appropriation of $5,000 out of the general treasury, by Congress, contained in the seventeenth section of the organic act creating the territory of Wisconsin. At the first session of the territorial Legislature, held at Belmont in 1836, a joint resolution was adopted appointing a committee to select and purchase a library for the use of the territory. The first appropriation by the State, to replenish the library, was made in 1851. Since that time, several appropriations have been made. The number of volumes in the library at the beginning of 1883 was 16,285.

The fifth Legislature — the Assembly, whig, the Senate, democratic—passed an act authorizing banking. This was approved by the governor, L. J. Farwell, April 19, 1852. The question of "bank or no bank" having been submitted to the people in November previous, and decided in favor of banks; the power was thereby given to the Legislature of 1852 to grant bank charters or to pass a general banking law. By the act just mentioned, the office of bank comptroller was created, but was abolished by an act of Jan. 3, 1870. During the continuance of the law, the following persons filled the office, at the time given: James S. Baker, from Nov. 20, 1852 to Jan. 2, 1854; William M. Dennis, from Jan. 2, 1854 to Jan. 4, 1858; Joel C. Squires, from Jan. 4, 1858 to Jan 2, 1860; Gysbert Van Steenwyk, from Jan 2, 1860 to Jan. 6, 1862; William H. Ramsey, from Jan 6, 1862 to Jan. 1, 1866; Jeremiah M. Rusk, from Jan. 1, 1866 to Jan. 3, 1870. The sixth Wisconsin Legislature commenced its session, as we have

seen, Jan. 12, 1853. On the 26th of that month charges were preferred in the Assembly against Levi Hubbell, judge of the second circuit court, for divers acts of corruption and malfeasance in office. A resolution directed a committee to go to the Senate and impeach Hubbell. On the trial he was acquitted. By an act of the same Legislature, the State Agricultural Society was incorporated. Since its organization the society has printed a number of volumes of transactions, and has held, except during the civil war, annual fairs. Its aid to the agricultural interests of the State are clearly manifest. Farming, in Wisconsin, is confined at the present time to the south half of the State, the northern half being still largely covered by forests. The surface of the agricultural portion is, for the most part, gently undulating, consisting largely of prairies alternating with "oak openings." The State is essentially a grain-growing one, though stock-raising and dairy-farming are rapidly gaining in importance. Wheat, the staple product of Wisconsin, is gradually losing its prestige as the farmer's sole dependence, and mixed farming is coming to the front. About twenty bushels of wheat are raised annually to each inhabitant of the State. Much more attention is now paid to fertilizers than formerly, clover and plaster being looked upon with constantly increasing favor. While within the last ten years stock-raising has been a growing interest, yet it has not been a rapid one; not so, however, with dairying—no other agricultural interest has kept pace with this. The principal markets for the farm products of Wisconsin are Milwaukee and Chicago.

By an act approved March 4, 1853, the State Historical Society was incorporated, it having been previously organized. The society is under the fostering care of the State, each Legislature voting a respectable sum for its benefit. It has published a number of volumes of "Collections" and of catalogues. Its rooms are in the capitol at Madison, where are to be found its library of historical books and pamphlets, the largest in the northwest. On the 21st of September, 1853, Timothy Burns, lieutenant-governor of the State, died at La Crosse. As a testimonial of respect for the deceased, the several State departments, in accordance with a proclamation of Gov. Farwell, were closed for one day, October 3. The year 1850, to the agriculturalist, was not one of much prosperity in Wisconsin, owing to the partial failure of the wheat crop. The State was visited during the year by cholera, not, however, to a very alarming extent. In 1851 the State was prosperous. In 1852 the citizens of Wisconsin enjoyed unusual prosperity. There were abundant harvests and high markets; an increase of money and a downward tendency of the rates of interest. The next year (1853) was also one in which every branch of industry prospered. There was an especial increase in commerce and manufactures. And here it might be said that next to agriculture the most important pursuit in Wisconsin is manufacturing; foremost in this interest is lumber, of which the pineries furnish the raw material. The pine region extends through the northern counties of the State from Green Bay to the St. Croix river. The demand for lumber is constantly increasing, while the facilities for its manufacture are continually enlarging. Over one billion feet of logs are cut annually. The lumber mills have a capacity exceeding one and one-half billion feet. The products of these find their way to market, either by the Mississippi and its tributaries, by the various lines of railways, or through the great lakes. The other leading articles of manufacture are flour, agricultural implements and malt liquors.

The fourth administration—William A. Barstow, governor—was signalized by a fugitive slave case, which greatly excited the people of Wisconsin. Sherman M. Booth, for assisting in the rescue of Joshua Glover, a fugitive slave, was arrested, but discharged by the supreme court. He was again arrested under an indictment in the United States district court, and a

second time discharged by the supreme court; but the supreme court of the United States reversed the action of the State court in its second discharge of Booth, and he was re-arrested in 1860; the sentence of the district court was executed in part upon him, when he was pardoned by the President. The eighth Legislature of the State (Jan. 10—April 2, 1855), passed an act very liberal in its provisions relative to the rights of married women. On the 27th of June, 1855, Hiram A. Wright, superintendent of public instruction, died at Prairie du Chien. The State census, taken in this year (1855), showed a population of 552,-109. In 1865, the number had increased to 868,325; in 1875, to 1,236,729. Industrial occupations in Wisconsin were prosperous during the years 1854 and 1855. The fifth administration began with William A. Barstow in the executive chair, by virtue of a certificate from the board of canvassers, that he had been a second time elected governor by a majority (as previously shown) of 157. But this certificate was set aside by the supreme court, giving the office to Coles Bashford, not, however, until Barstow had resigned, and Arthur McArthur, acting, by virtue of his office of lieutenant-governor, as governor from March 21, to March 25, 1856. A dry season during this year diminished the wheat crop. The tenth Legislature of Wisconsin—Jan. 14 to March 9, 1857—passed an act establishing at Waukesha a house of refuge for juvenile delinquents, afterwards called the State Reform School; now known as the Wisconsin Industrial School for boys. It was opened in 1860. The buildings are located on the southern bank of Fox river, in view of the trains as they pass to and from Milwaukee and Madison, presenting an attractive front to the traveling public, and furnishing the best evidence of the parental care of the State authorities for the juvenile wards within its borders. The buildings include a main central building, three stories high, used for the residence of the superintendent's family, office chapel, school rooms, reading room and library, officers kitchen, dining room, and lodging, furnace room and cellar. On the east of the main central building are three family buildings, three stories high, each with dining hall, play room, bath room, dressing room, hospital room, officers' rooms, dormitory and store room. On the west of the main central building are four family buildings like those on the east in all respects, with the exception of the building at the west end of this line, which is a modern building with stone basement. In the rear of this line of buildings is the shop building, 38x258 feet, three stories high, which embrace boot factory, sock and knitting factory, tailor shop, carpenter shop, engine room, laundry and steam dyeing room, bath rooms, store, store rooms, bakery and cellar. The correction house, 44x80 feet, (intended for the most refractory boys) and will accommodate forty; a double family building 38x117 feet for the accommodation of two families of boys of fifty each. There is on the farm, which consists of 233 acres of land, a comfortable house, a stone carriage and horse barn two stories high, built in the most substantial manner.

The constitution of the State, adopted in 1848, provides, "that the revenue of the school fund shall be exclusively applied to the following objects: "1st. To the support and maintenance of common schools in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and appurtenances therefor. "2d. That the residue of the income of the school fund shall be appropriated to the support of academies and normal schools, and suitable libraries and appurtenances therefor." No effort was made to take advantage of this provision of the constitution for the endowment of normal schools until 1857, when an act was passed providing "that the income of twenty-five per cent. of the proceeds arising from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands should be appropriated to normal institutes and academies, under the supervision and direction of a "'board

of regents of normal schools,'" who were to be appointed in pursuance of the provisions of that act. Under this law, the income placed at the disposal of the regents was distributed for several years to such colleges, academies and high schools as maintained a normal class, and in proportion to the number of pupils in the class who passed satisfactory examinations, conducted by an agent of the board. In 1865, the Legislature divided the swamp lands and swamp land fund into two equal parts, one for drainage purposes, the other to constitute a normal school fund. The income of the latter was to be applied to establishing, supporting and maintaining normal schools, under the direction and management of the board of regents of normal schools, with a proviso that one-fourth of such income should be transferred to the common school fund, until the annual income of that fund should reach $200,000. During the same year, proposals were invited for extending aid in the establishment of a normal school, and propositions were received from various places.

In 1866, the board of regents was incorporated by the Legislature. In February, Platteville was conditionally selected as the site of a school, and as it had become apparent that a productive fund of about $600,000, with a net income of over $30,000, was already in hand, with a prospect of a steady increase as fast as lands were sold, the board, after a careful investigation and consideration of the different methods, decided upon the policy of establishing several schools, and of locating them in different parts of the State. At a meeting held on the 2d day of May, in the same year, the board designated Whitewater as the site of a school for the southeastern section of the State, where a building was subsequently erected; and on the 16th permanently located a school at Platteville, the academy building having been donated for that purpose. The school at Platteville was opened Oct. 9, 1866. The school at Whitewater was opened on the 21st of April, 1868.

A building was completed during the year 1870 for a third normal school, at Oshkosh, but owing to a lack of funds, it was not opened for the admission of pupils during that year. The opening and the ceremony of dedicating the building took place Sept. 19, 1871. A fourth normal school was opened in September, 1875, at River Falls, Pierce county. It is understood to be the policy of the board of regents to establish eventually, when the means at their disposal shall permit, not less than six normal schools, but several years must elapse before so many can go into operation. The law under which these schools are organized provides that "The exclusive purpose of each normal school shall be the instruction and training of persons, both male and female, in the theory and art of teaching, and in all the various branches that pertain to a good common school education, and in all subjects needful to qualify for teaching in the public schools; also to give instruction in the fundamental laws of the United States and of this State, and in what regards the rights and duties of citizens."

Subsidiary to the State normal schools are teachers' institutes, held annually in nearly every settled county, and the State teachers' association, which has been organized for a quarter of a century. Besides the public schools of the State, there are a number of denominational and other colleges, the principal of which are Racine College, Beloit College, Milton College, Ripon College, Carroll College, at Waukesha; Lawrence University, at Appleton; St. John's College, at Prairie du Chien; Galesville University; Northwestern University, at Watertown; and Pio Nono College, at St. Francis Station, south of Milwaukee. There is also quite a large number of incorporated academies and seminaries, the more prominent ones being the Milwaukee Academy and St. Mary's Institute, at Milwaukee; Kemper Hall, at Kenosha; St. Catharine's Academy, at Racine; Rochester Seminary, Lake Geneva Seminary, Fox Lake Seminary, Albion Academy, Elroy Seminary,

Wayland Institute, at Beaver Dam, and Santa Clara Academy, at Sinsinawa Mound. There are also about 700 private schools in Wisconsin. The whole number of children in Wisconsin between four and twenty years of age is 483,071; the number of pupils in attendance in public schools, 299,019. The aggregate valuation of school property in the State is $5,297,678.24.

The sixth administration, Alexander W. Randall, governor, was noted for its "long parliament," the eleventh Legislature of the State having been in session 125 days. A report of commissioners previously appointed to revise the statutes, was acted upon during the session, the result being the publication, in one volume, of the "Revised Statutes of 1858." The twelfth Legislature (Jan. 12, to March 21, 1859) was, like the two previous Legistatures, republican. At the commencement of the seventh administration, Randall's second term as governor, that party not only had control of the thirteenth Legislature, but of all the State offices. The governor, in his message to the fourteenth Legislature, on the 10th of January, 1861, declared that the right of a State to secede from the Union, could never be admitted. "*The government must be sustained, the laws shall be enforced!*" An extra session of the Legislature was convened on the 15th of May, at which, no acts were passed except such as appertained to the military exigencies of the times. Meanwhile a demand made upon the governor by the President, for troops to sustain the federal arm, met with a quick response. During the year, 9,991 men, in ten regiments, for three years' service, and one regiment for three months service, of 810 men, were sent out of the State. The number of volunteers originally in the several military organizations, from Wisconsin during the war, were as follows:

First Infantry, three months	810
First Infantry, three years	945
Second Infantry, three years	1051
Third Infantry, three years	979
Fifth Infantry, three years	1058
Sixth Infantry, three years	1108
Seventh Infantry, three years	1029
Eighth Infantry, three years	973
Ninth Infantry, * three years	870
Tenth Infantry, three years	916
Eleventh Infantry, three years	1029
Twelfth Infantry, three years	1045
Thirteenth Infantry,* three years	970
Fourteenth Infantry, three years	970
Fifteenth Infantry, three years	801
Sixteenth Infantry, three years	1066
Seventeenth Infantry, three years	941
Eighteenth Infantry, three years	962
Nineteenth Infantry, three years	973
Twentieth Infantry, three years	990
Twenty-first Infantry, three years	1002
Twenty-second Infantry, three years	1009
Twenty-third Infantry, three years	994
Twenty fourth Infantry, three years	1003
Twenty-fifth Infantry, three years	1018
Twenty-sixth Infantry, three years	1002
Twenty-seventh Infantry, three years	865
Twenty-eighth Infantry, three years	961
Twenty-ninth Infantry, three years	961
Thirtieth Infantry, three years	906
Thirty-first Infantry, three years	878
Thirty-second Infantry, three years	993
Thirty-third Infantry, three years	892
Thirty-fourth Infantry, nine months	961
Thirty-fifth Infantry, * three years	1066
Thirty-sixth Infantry, three years	990
Thirty-seventh Infantry, one, two and three years	708
Thirty-eighth Infantry, one, two and three years	913
Thirty-ninth Infantry, one hundred days	780
Fortieth Infantry, one hundred days	776
Forty-first Infantry, one hundred days	578
Forty-second Infantry, one year	877
Forty-third Infantry, one year	867
Forty-fourth Infantry, one year	877
Forty-fifth Infantry, one year	859
Forty-sixth Infantry, one year	914
Forty-seventh Infantry, one year	927
Forty-eighth Infantry, one year	828
Forty-ninth Infantry, one year	986
Fiftieth Infantry, one year	942
Fifty-first Infantry, one year	841
Fifty-second Infantry, one year	486
Fifty third Infantry, one year	380
First Cavalry, three years	1124
Second Cavalry, three years	1127
Third Cavalry, three years	1186
Fourth Cavalry, three years	1047
Milwaukee	83

*Nov. 1, 1865.

First Battery Light Artillery	155
Second Battery Light Artillery	153
Third Battery Light Artillery	170
Fourth Battery Light Artillery	151
Fifth Battery Light Artillery	155
Sixth Battery Light Artillery	157
Seventh Battery Light Artillery	158
Eighth Battery Light Artillery	161
Ninth Battery Light Artillery	155
Tenth Battery Light Artillery	47
Eleventh Battery Light Artillery	87
Twelfth Battery Light Artillery	99
Thirteenth Battery Light Artillery	156
Battery A, Heavy Artillery	129
Battery B, Heavy Artillery	149
Battery C, Heavy Artillery	146
Battery D, Heavy Artillery	146
Battery E, Heavy Artillery	151
Battery F, Heavy Artillery	151
Battery G, Heavy Artillery	152
Battery H, Heavy Artillery	151
Battery I, Heavy Artillery	150
Battery K, Heavy Artillery	148
Battery L, Heavy Artillery	152
Battery M, Heavy Artillery	152
Sharp Shooters	105
Gibbons' Brigade Band	13

On the 10th of April, 1862, Gov. Louis P. Harvey, the successor of Alexander W. Randall, started, along with others, from Wisconsin on a tour to relieve the wounded and suffering soldiers from this State, at Mound City, Paducah and Savannah. Having completed his mission, he made preparations to return. He went on board a boat, the Dunleith, at the landing in Savannah, and there awaited the arrival of the Minnehaha, which was to convey him and his party to Cairo, Ill. It was late in the evening of the 19th of April when the steamer arrived; and as she rounded to, her bow touched the Dunleith precipitating the governor into the river. Every effort was made to save his life, but in vain. His body was afterward recovered and brought home for interment.

Edward Salomon, lieutenant-governor, by virtue of a provision of the constitution of the State, succeeded to the office of governor. The enlisting, organization and mustering into the United States service during Randall's administration of thirteen regiments of infantry—the First to the Thirteenth inclusive, and the marching of ten of them out of the State before the close of 1861, also, of one company of cavalry and one company of sharpshooters constituted the effective aid abroad of Wisconsin during that year to suppress the Rebellion. But for the year 1862, this aid, as to number of organizations, was more than doubled. At the end of the year 1863 thirty-three regiments left the State—the Thirteenth regiment being the only remaining one of the thirty-four in Wisconsin. The ninth administration, James T. Lewis, governor, saw the close of the Rebellion. On the 10th of April, 1865, Lewis announced to the Legislature, then in session, the surrender of Gen. Lee and his army.

Fifty-three regiments during the war were raised in Wisconsin, all, sooner or later, moving south and engaging in one way or other in suppressing the Rebellion. Twelve of these regiments were assigned to duty in the eastern division, which constituted the territory on both sides of the Potomac and upon the seaboard from Baltimore to Savannah. These twelve regiments were:

The First (three months), Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Nineteenth, Twenty-sixth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth.

Ten regiments were assigned to the central division, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Northern Alabama and Georgia. These ten were:

The Tenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-fourth, Thirtieth, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh. Added to these was the First (re-organized).

Thirty-one regiments were ordered to the western division, embracing the country west and northwest of the central division. These were:

Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth,

Eighteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth, Fiftieth, Fifty-first, Fifty-second and Fifty-third.

During the war several transfers were made from one district to another. There were taken from the eastern division the Third and Twenty-sixth and sent to the central division; also the Fourth, which was sent to the department of the gulf. The Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fifth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second were transferred from the western to the central department. The other military organizations from Wisconsin had various assignments Recruiting ceased in the State on the 13th of April, 1865. It was not many months before Wisconsin's last soldier was mustered out of service. The State furnished during the war over 75,000 men, of which number nearly 11,000 died in the service.

Among all the noble women who gave themselves to the sanitary work of the civil war perhaps few were more peculiarly fitted for forming and carrying out plans than Mrs. C. A. P. Harvey, widow of the late lamented Gov. Louis P. Harvey. She was appointed by Gov. Salomon one of the sanitary agents of the State. She soon procured the establishment of a convalesent hospital at Madison, Wis. The building when no longer needed as a hospital, Mrs. Harvey conceived the idea of having it converted into a home for soldiers' orphans. On Jan. 1, 1866, the home was opened with eighty-four orphans, Mrs. Harvey at the head. The necessary funds had been raised by subscription; but it soon became a State institution. The orphans were not only maintained but brought up to habits of industry. But it was not long before the number of the inmates began to decrease, owing to the fact that homes were found or many, while some were returned to their, mothers; none were kept in the institution after they had reached the age of fifteen. At length when the number had diminished to less than forty children, it was thought best to close the institution. This was in 1875. The whole number of orphans cared for during the continuance of the home was about 700. The Legislature then transferred the building to the regents of the University of Wisconsin, who disposed of it; and a Norwegian seminary is now established therein.

During the tenth administration, Lucius Fairchild, governor, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the northwestern branch of the National institution, was established in Wisconsin, three miles from Milwaukee. It has a capacious brick building, containing accommodations for 1,000 inmates. In addition to this building which contains the main halls, eating apartment, offices, dormitory and engine room, are shops, granaries, stables and other out-buildings. The Home farm contains 410 acres, of which over one-half is cultivated The remainder is a wooded park traversed by shaded walks and drives, beautifully undulating. The main line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad runs through the farm, and the track of the northern division passes beside it. Soldiers who were disabled in the service of the United States in the War of the Rebellion, the Mexican War, or the War of 1812, and have been honorably discharged, are entit'ed to admission to the Soldiers' Home.

A law was passed in 1867 creating the office of insurance commissioner, the secretary of State being assigned to its duties. But, in 1878, it was made a distinct office, to be filled by the governor's appointment. It was, however, made elective in 1881. Philip L. Spooner has served since April 1, 1878, and is still in office. The joint-stock fire insurance companies of Wisconsin are three in number, its mutual companies also three. There is but one life insurance company in the State. A large number of fire and life insurance companies located outside of

Wisconsin transact business under State law within its borders.

Early in 1870, during Gov. Fairchild's third term, was organized, and in March of that year incorporated, the "Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters," having among its specific objects researches and investigations in the various departments of the material, metaphysical, ethical, ethnological and social sciences; a progressive and thorough scientific survey of the State, with a view of determining its mineral, agricultural and other resources; the advancement of the useful arts, through the application of science and by the encouragement of original invention; the encouragement of the fine arts by means of honors and prizes awarded to artists for original works of superior merit; the formation of scientific, economical and art museums; the encouragement of philological and historical research; the collection and preservation of historic records and the formation of a general library, and the diffusion of knowledge by the publication of original contributions to science, literature and the arts. The academy has already published several volumes of transactions, under authority of the State. On the 3d day of July of that year A. J. Craig, superintendent of public instruction, died of consumption, and on the 13th of January following occurred the death of associate justice, Byron Paine, of the supreme court. At the twenty-fourth regular session of the Legislature (January 11—March 25, 1871,) a commissioner of emigration, to be elected by the people, was provided for. The office was abolished Jan. 3, 1876. During this time but two persons held the office—Ole C. Johnson, from April 3, 1871, to Jan. 5, 1874; Martin J. Argard, from Jan. 5, 1874, to Jan. 3, 1876. By an act of the Legislature, approved March 4, 1879, the board of immigration of the State of Wisconsin was created, to consist of five members, of which number two are *ex-officio*—the governor and secretary of State. The principal office is located in Milwaukee, with a branch office at Chicago. The object is to encourage imigration from Europe to Wisconsin. On the 23d of March, 1871, the State board of charities and reforms was created, to consist of five members to be appointed by the governor of the State, the duties of the members being to investigate and supervise the whole system of charitable and correctional institutions supported by the State or receiving aid from the State treasury. This board have since reported annually to the governor their proceedings. The Wisconsin State horticultural Society, although previously organized, first under the name of the "Wisconsin Fruit Growers' Association," was not incorporated until the 24th of March, 1871—the object of the society being to improve the condition of horticulture, rural adornment and landscape gardening. By a law of 1868 provision was made for the publication of the society's transactions in connection with the State Agricultural Society; but by the act of 1871 this law was repealed and an appropriation made for their yearly publication in separate form. The society holds annual meetings at Madison.

In October, 1871, occurred great fires in northeastern Wisconsin. The counties of Oconto, Brown, Kewaunee, Door, Manitowoc, Outagamie and Shawano suffered more or less. More than 1,000 men, women and children perished. More than 3,000 were rendered destitute. The loss of property has been estimated at $4,000,000. No other calamity so awful in its results has ever visited Wisconsin. A compilation of the public statutes of the State was prepared during the year 1871 by David Taylor (now associate justice of the supreme court), and published in two volumes, known as the "Revised Statutes of 1871." It was wholly a private undertaking, but a very creditable one.

The Wisconsin Dairymen's Association originated in a resolution offered in the Jefferson County Dairymen's Association, Jan. 26, 1872, to issue a call for a meeting of Wisconsin dairymen, to be held at Watertown, Feb. 15,

1872. A few gentlemen met and organized the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association. The aim of the organization has been to secure improved methods of making butter and cheese and the best markets for shipment and sale. The association holds its annual meeting in January of each year for the discussion of the dairy interests. Dairy fairs are held at each meeting. There is printed annually by the State printer 2,000 copies of the transactions of the association. The Legislature receives 600 copies, the State Historical Society, Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, State Agricultural Society and Northern Wisconsin Agricultural Association receive forty copies each; the remainder are distributed to the members of the association and generally over the State to all who make application for them. The association receives its support from members who join each year, paying the sum of $1, and by appropriations from the State. Wisconsin won first premium on butter in competition with the world; the second premium on Cheddar cheese (the first going to Canada), and the second on fancy shaped cheese at the International Dairy Fair, held in New York city in December, 1877. To the Dairymen's Association belongs the credit of raising the reputation of Wisconsin cheese and butter from the lowest to the highest rank.

On the 23d of March, 1873, Lieut.-Gov. Milton H. Pettitt died suddenly and unexpectedly. The Legislature this year passed an act providing for a geological survey of the State, to be completed within four years, by a chief geologist and four assistants, to be appointed by the governor, appropriating for the work an annual payment of $13,000. An act, approved March 25, 1853, authorized the governor to appoint a State geologist, who was to select a suitable person as assistant geologist. Under this law Edward Daniels, on the 1st day of April, 1853, was appointed State geologist, superseded on the 12th day of August, 1854, by James G. Percival, who died in office on the 2d of May, 1856. By an act approved March 3, 1857, James Hall, Ezra Carr and Edward Daniels were appointed by the Legislature geological commissioners. By an act approved April 2, 1860, Hall was made principal of the commission. The survey was interrupted by a repeal March 21, 1862, of previous laws promoting it. However, to complete the survey, the matter was re-instated by the act of this Legislature, approved March 29, the governor, under that act, appointing as chief geologist Increase A. Lapham, April 10, 1873. On the 16th of February, 1875, O. W. Wight succeeded Lapham, but on the 2d of February, 1876, T. C. Chamberlain was appointed Wight's successor, and still holds the office. He has published four volumes of reports in a very able manner, extending from 1873 to 1879, inclusive. Reports were also published by his predecessors.

And just here it may not be inappropriate to say a word concerning the physical history of Wisconsin. "This can be traced back with certainty to a state of complete submergence beneath the waters of the ancient ocean, by which the material of our oldest and deepest strata were deposited. Let an extensive but shallow sea, covering the whole of the present territory of the State, be pictured to the mind, and let it be imagined to be depositing mud and sand, as at the present day, and we have before us the first authentic stage of the history under consideration. Back of that the history is lost in the mists of geologic antiquity. The thickness of the sediments that accumulated in that early period was immense, being measured by thousands of feet. These sediments occupied, of course, an essentially horizontal position, and were doubtless in a large degree hardened into beds of impure sandstone, shale and other sedimentary rock. But in the progress of time an enormous pressure, attended by heat, was brought to bear upon them laterally, or edgewise, by which they were folded and crumpled and forced up out of the water, giving rise to an island, the nucleus of Wisconsin. The force

which produced this upheaval is believed to have arisen from the cooling and consequent contraction of the globe. The foldings may be imagined as the wrinkles of a shrinking earth. But the contortion of the beds was a scarcely more wonderful result than the change in the character of the rock which seems to have taken place simultaneously with the folding, indeed, as the result of the heat and pressure attending it. The sediments, that seem to have previously taken the form of impure sandstone and shale for the most part, underwent a change, in which re-arrangement and crystalization of the ingredients played a conspicuous part. By this metamorphism granite, gneiss, mica schist, syenite, hornblende rocks, chloritic schists and other crystalline rocks were formed."* But to pursue further an inquiry into the geological structure of the State would be foreign to this brief historical sketch of Wisconsin. The subject is ably treated of in the geological reports before referred to.

The actual mineral resources of Wisconsin remain very largely to be developed, Its useful mineral material comes under the head of metalic ores and non-metalic substances. Of the first class are the ores of lead, zinc, iron and copper; of the second class are the principal substances found in brick-clay, kaolin, cement rock, limestone for burning into quick lime, limestone for flux, glass-sand, peat and building stone. In Wisconsin lead and zinc are found together ; the former has been utilized since 1826, the latter since 1860. The counties of La Fayette, Iowa and Grant—the southwestern counties of the State—are known as the "lead region." All the lead and zinc obtained in Wisconsin are from these counties. The lead ore is of one kind only—that known as galena. A large amount is produced yearly from the various mining districts in the lead region. The number of pounds raised from single crevices has often been several hundred thousand. The zinc ores were formerly rejected as useless, but their value is, beyond doubt, very great, and they will be a source of wealth to the lead region for a long time to come, as they are now extensively utilized. Iron mining in the State is yet in its infancy. Numbers of blast furnaces have sprung up in the eastern portion, but these smelt Michigan ores almost entirely. The several ores in Wisconsin are red hematites, brown hematites, magnetic ores and specular hematites ; the first are found in Dodge county ; the second in Portage, Wood and Juneau ; the two last in Bayfield, Ashland, Lincoln and Oconto counties.

The thirteenth administration (C. C. Washburn, governor) ended with the year 1873, the republican party in the State being defeated for the first time since the commencement of Randall's administration. The session of the Legislature of 1874 was a noted one for the passage of the "Potter Law," limiting the compensation for the transportation of passengers, classifying freight, and regulating prices for its carriage on railroads within Wisconsin. Three railroad commissioners were to be appointed by the governor ; one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, whose terms of office should commence on the 14th day of May, and the governor, thereafter, on the first day of May, of each year, should appoint one commissioner for three years. Under this law the governor appointed J. H. Osborn, for three years ; George H. Paul, for two years ; and J. W. Hoyt, for one year. Under executive direction, this commission inaugurated its labors by compiling, classifying, and putting into convenient form for public use for the first time, all the railroad legislation of the State. In 1876 this board was abolished and a railroad commissioner, to be appointed by the governor every two years, was to take its place. This latter office was made elective in 1881. The commissioners who have held office under these various laws are : John W. Hoyt, from

* T. C. Chamberlain, State Geologist, in Illustrated Hist. Atlas of Wisconsin.

April 29, 1874, to March 10, 1876; George H. Paul, from April 29, 1874, to March 10, 1876; Joseph H. Osborn, from April 29, 1874, to March 10, 1876; Dana C. Lamb, from March 10, 1876, to Feb. 1, 1878; A. J. Turner, from Feb. 1, 1878, to Feb. 15, 1882; N. P, Haugen, from Feb. 15, 1881, and now in office. The "Potter Law" was resisted by the railroad companies, but ultimately the complete and absolute power of the people, through the Legislature, to modify or altogether repeal their charters was fully sustained by the courts both of the State and the United States. The necessity for railroads in Wisconsin began to be felt while yet it was an appendage of Michigan territory. Great advantages were anticipated from their construction. There was a reason for this. Explorers had published accounts of the wonderful fertility of Wisconsin's soil, the wealth of its broad prairies and forest openings, and the beauty of its lakes and rivers. From 1836, with the hope of improving their condition, thousands of the enterprising yeomanry of New England, New York and Ohio started for the territory. Germans, Scandinavians, and other Nationalities, attracted by the glowing accounts sent abroad, crossed the ocean on their way to the new world; steamers and sail-craft laden with families and their household goods left Buffalo and other lake ports, all bound for Wisconsin. With the development of the agricultural resources of the territory, grain raising became the most prominent interest, and as the settlements extended back from the lake shore the difficulties of transportation of the products of the soil were seriously felt. The expense incurred in moving a load of produce seventy or eighty miles to a market town on the lake shore frequently exceeded the gross sum obtained for the same. All goods, wares and merchandise, and most of the lumber used were hauled by teams from Lake Michigan. To meet the great want, better facilities for transportation, railroads were an indispensable necessity. Between the years 1838 and 1841, the territorial Legislature of Wisconsin chartered several railroad companies, but with the exception of the Milwaukee & Waukesha Railroad Company, incorporated in 1847, none of the corporations thus created took any particular shape. There are now in Wisconsin the following railroads, costing, in round numbers, $150,000,000: Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; Chicago & Northwestern; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha; Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western; Wisconsin Central; Green Bay & Minnesota; Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul; Wisconsin & Minnesota; Chippewa Falls & Western; Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria; Prairie du Chien & McGregor; Milwaukee & Northern; Chippewa Falls & Northern, and Wisconsin & Michigan. Other lines are still needed, and present lines should be extended by branch roads. The questions, as we have seen, upon which great issues have been raised between railway corporations in Wisconsin and the people, are now happily settled by securing to the latter their rights, and the former, under the wise and conciliatory policy pursued by their managers, are assured of the safety of their investments. An era of good feeling has succeeded one of distrust and antagonism. The people must use the railroads, and the railroads depend upon the people for sustenance and protection.

In 1874 the Wisconsin commission for the purpose of fish culture was organized. The next year, by reason of State aid, the commission was enabled to commence work. In 1876 was completed the purchase of grounds, the erection of the buildings, and the construction of the ponds (seven in number) of the Madison hatchery, situated in the town of Fitchburg, Dane county. A temporary hatching house was continued for some time in Milwaukee, for the hatching of spawn of the white fish and lake trout. The commission was reorganized in 1878, the number of the members being increased from four to seven. Appro-

priations by the Legislature have been continued, and the work promises favorable results to the State.

Under an act of 1875 an Industrial School for girls was organized in Milwaukee, where buildings have been erected, capable of accommodating 150 inmates. Its proper subjects are: (1.) Viciously inclined girls under sixteen, and boys under ten years of age; (2.) The stubborn and unruly, who refuse to obey their proper guardians; (3.) Truants, vagrants and beggars; (4.) Those found in circumstances of manifest danger of falling into habits of vice and immorality; (5.) Those under the above ages who have committed any offense punishable by fine or imprisonment in adult offenders. Although the school was founded by private charity, and is under the control of a self-perpetuating board of managers, it is incorporated and employed by the State for the custody, guardianship, discipline and instruction of the aforenamed children. In default of responsible and efficient guardianship, they are treated as the minors and wards of the State, and by it are committed to the guardianship of this board of ladies during minority.

The application of Miss Lavinia Goodell for admission to the bar of Wisconsin, was rejected by the supreme court at its January term, 1876; but as a law subsequently passed the Legislature, making ladies eligible to practice in the several courts of the State, she was, upon a second application, admitted.

By an act approved March 13, 1876, a State board of health was established, the appointment of a superintendent of vital statistics provided for, and certain duties assigned to local boards of health. The State board was organized soon after, seven persons having been appointed by the governor as its members. And here it is proper to say a word as to the health of Wisconsin. "When we compare the general death-rate of Wisconsin with that of the other States of the Union, we find that it compares most favorably with that of Vermont, the healthiest of the New England States. The United States census of 1850, 1860 and 1870, gives Wisconsin ninety-four deaths to 10,000 of the population, while it gives Vermont 101 to every 10,000 of her inhabitants. The census of 1870 shows that the death-rate from consumption in Minnesota, Iowa, California and Wisconsin are alike. These four States show the lowest death-rate among the States from consumption, the mortality being thirteen to fourteen per cent. of the whole death-rate. Climatologically considered, then, there is not a more healthy State in the Union than the State of Wisconsin. But for health purposes something more is requisite than climate. Climate and soil must be equally good. Men should shun the soil, no matter how rich it be, if the climate is inimical to health, and rather choose the climate that is salubrious, even if the soil is not so rich. In Wisconsin, generally speaking, the soil and climate are equally conducive to health, and alike good for agricultural purposes."*

There was in Wisconsin a general feeling of patriotism (if the acts of its citizens, both native and foreign born, are to be taken as an indication of their attachment to their country), manifested throughout the centennial year, 1876. A board of State centennial managers was provided for by the Legislature, to represent Wisconsin at the Philadelphia exhibition, and $20,000 appropriated for their use, to make there a proper exhibition of the products, resources and advantages of the State. Under a law of this year, three revisors, afterward increased to five, were appointed to revise the statutes of the State. The result was a large volume, ably collated, known as the Revised Statutes of 1878, which was legalized by act of the June session of the Legislature of that year. On the 19th of October, 1880, Chief Justice Edward G. Ryan departed this life, in the seventieth year of his age. He was buried in Milwaukee, with honors becoming the position held by him at the time

*Dr. Joseph Hobbins, in Illustrated Historical Atlas of Wisconsin.

of his death. His successor, as previously stated, is Chief Justice Orsamus Cole.

By an act of the Legislature of 1881, a board of supervision of Wisconsin charitable, reformatory and penal institutions was founded. The boards of trustees by which these institutions had been governed since their organization were abolished by the same law. The board of supervision consists of five members, who hold their office for five years, and who are appointed by the governor, the Senate concurring. The board acts as commissioners of lunacy, and has full power to investigate all complaints against any of the institutions under its control, to send for books and papers, summon, compel the attendance of, and swear witnesses. The powers delegated to this board are so extraordinary, and its duties so manifold, that a recital of them will be found of interest. They are as follows:

(1.) To maintain and govern the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane, the Northern Hospital for the Insane, the Wisconsin State Prison, the Wisconsin Industrial School for Boys, the Wisconsin Institution for the Education of the Blind, and the Wisconsin Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb; and such other charitable and penal institutions as may hereafter be established or maintained by the State. (2.) To carefully supervise and direct the management and affairs of said institutions, and faithfully and diligently promote the objects for which the same have been established. (3) To preserve and care for the buildings, grounds and all property connected with the said institutions. (4.) To take and hold in trust for the said several institutions any land conveyed or devised, or money or property given or bequeathed, to be applied for any purpose connected therewith, and faithfully to apply the same as directed by the donor, and faithfully to apply all funds, effects and property which may be received for the use of such institutions. (5.) To make on or before October 1 in each year, full and complete annual inventories and appraisals of all the property of each of said institutions, which inventories and appraisals shall be recorded, and shall be so classified as to separately show the amount, kind and value of all real and personal property belonging to such institutions. (6.) To make such by-laws, rules and regulations, not incompatible with law, as it shall deem convenient or necessary for the government of the said institutions and for its own government, and cause the same to be printed. (7.) To visit and carefully inspect each of said institutions as often as once in each month, either by the full board or by some member thereof, and ascertain whether all officers, teachers, servants and employees in such institutions are competent and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and all inmates thereof properly cared for and governed, and all accounts, account books and vouchers properly kept, and all the business affairs thereof properly conducted. (8.) To fix the number of subordinate officers, teachers, servants and employees in each of said institutions, and prescribe the duties and compensation of each, and to employ the same upon the nomination of the respective superintendents and wardens. (9.) To promptly remove or discharge any officer, teacher or employe in any of said institutions, who shall be guilty of any malfeasance or misbehavior in office, or of neglect, or improper discharge of duty. (10.) To annually appoint for the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane and for the Northern Hospital for the Insane, for each, a superintendent, one assistant physician, a matron, a steward and a treasurer; and for the Institution for the Education of the Blind, and the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, and the Industrial School for Boys, for each, a superintendent, a steward, a treasurer, and all necessary teachers; and for the State prison, a warden, a steward and a treasurer, who shall be the officers of said institutions respectively and whose duties shall be fixed by said board, except as herein otherwise provided. (11.) To

maintain and govern the school, prescribe the course of study and provide the necessary apparatus and means of instruction for the Institution for the Education of the Blind, and for the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. (12.) To prescribe and collect such charges as it may think just, for tuition and maintenance of pupils not entitled to the same free of charge, in the Institution for the Education of the Blind and in the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. (13.) To fix the period of the academic year, not less than forty weeks, and prescribe the school terms in the Institution for the Education of the Blind and the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. (14.) To confer, in its discretion, upon meritorious pupils, such academic and literary degrees as are usually conferred by similar institutions, and grant diplomas accordingly, in the Institution for the Education of the Blind and in the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb.

On the 20th of April, 1883, a commissioner was appointed by the governor, for two years, in accordance with the provisions of an act passed by the Legislature of that year creating a bureau of labor statistics. The object of this office, now filled by Frank A. Flower, is to collect manufacturing and labor statistics, report violations of laws for benefit of artisans, and generally to show the manufacturing condition and resources of the State.

In her political divisions Wisconsin has copied, to a considerable extent, from some of her sister States. These divisions are counties, towns, cities and incorporated villages. The county government is in charge of a county board of supervisors, consisting of the chairman of each town board, a supervisor from each ward of every city, and one from each incorporated village. The county officers are : Clerk, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, clerk of circuit court, district attorney, register of deeds, surveyor, and one or two superintendents of schools, all elected biennially. There are sixty-five counties in the State. The government of the towns is in charge of a town board of supervisors. The other officers are clerk, treasurer, assessors, justices of the peace, overseers of highways and constables. The government of cities depends upon charters granted by the State Legislature. Generally, there is a mayor, common council, clerk, treasurer, attorney, chief of police, fire marshal and surveyor. Incorporated villages are governed by a president and six trustees. The other officers are clerk, treasurer, supervisor, marshal and constable, and sometimes a justice of the peace or police justice.

The constitution of Wisconsin, adopted by the people in 1848, is still "the supreme law of the State ;" but it has several times been amended, or had material additions made to it :

(1.) Article V, section 21, relating to the pay of the members of the Legislature. This was amended in 1867.

(2.) Article VI, sections 5 and 9, relating to the salaries of the governor and lieutenant-governor. This was amended in 1869.

(3.) Article I, section 8, relating to grand juries. This was amended in 1870.

(4.) Article IV, sections 31 and 32, relating to special legislation. These sections were added in 1871.

(5.) Article XI, section 3, relating to municipal taxation. This was amended in 1874.

(6.) Article VII, section 4, relating to the number and term of the judges of the supreme court. This was substituted for the original section in 1877.

(7.) Article VIII, section 2, relating to claims against the State. This was amended in 1877.

(8.) Article IV, sections 4, 5, 11 and 21, relating to biennial sessions, and a change in salaries and perquisites of members of the Legislature. These were thus amended in 1881.

(9) Article III, section 1, relating to residence of voters in election districts some time before the election, and to registration of voters in cities and villages. Amended to this effect in 1882

(10.) Article VI, section 4, article VII, section 12, and article XIII, section 1, all relating to biennial elections. Amended to this effect in 1882.*

*A. O. Wright, in Exposition of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin.

HISTORY

OF

VERNON COUNTY,

WISCONSIN.

CHAPTER I.

AREA, POSITION AND SURFACE FEATURES.

Before entering upon a consideration of the history of Vernon county, past and present, it is a matter of importance to understand its area and geographical position; also its general surface features. We begin with its

AREA.

Vernon is properly considered one of the large counties of Wisconsin, it having a total area of nearly 815 square miles, or, to be more specific, it contains 521,582.61 acres of land. From east to west, in its longest distance, it measures forty-eight miles; from north to south, twenty-one miles. It embraces eighteen whole congressional townships; four half townships; and four fractional townships, all included in twenty-one towns: Greenwood, Hillsborough, Forest, Lincoln, Stark, Whitestown, Clinton, Webster, Liberty, Kickapoo, Franklin, Viroqua, Christiana, Coon, Jefferson, Sterling, Harmony, Hamburg, Bergen, Genoa and Wheatland.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

The county has a position lying immediately on the Mississippi river, north of Crawford and Richland counties, and south of Monroe and La Crosse counties. It lies west of the counties of Richland, Sauk and Juneau. Its most southerly limits are sixty-three miles in a straight line north of the northern boundary line of the State of Illinois; its most easterly limits are in a straight line west, 126 miles from Lake Michigan; its most northerly limits are in a straight line south, 198 miles from Lake Superior. West of the town of Wheatland and a small part of the town of Genoa, is (across the Mississippi river) the State of Iowa; but west of the residue of the last mentioned

town, and that of Bergen is (across the Mississippi) the State of Minnesota. If the boundary line between these two States were extended across the Mississippi, it would strike about the center of section 21, in the town of Genoa.

GENERAL SURFACE FEATURES.

Some of the islands in the Mississippi, along the west side of the town of Bergen, are in Vernon county. What is known as "raft channel," in the upper half of that part of the stream which washes the western side of the county, is the true Mississippi — the dividing line between Wisconsin and Minnesota. This extends down to the southwest corner of Bergen. Coon slough leaves the true Mississippi on section 19, in Bergen, and extends south to its southern line, where it again unites with the parent stream. Steamers, in low stages of water, usually take the slough in preference to the main or "raft" channel. The Mississippi, on an average, along the whole western limits of the county, is about three-fourths of a mile in width; and from bluff to bluff on each side of the river, containing the basin proper of the river, is about five miles. The base of the bluffs proper, of the Mississippi, extends down to within one-third of a mile of the water's edge, on an average. These bluffs are indented by ravines, the outlets of water courses; the principal of the latter are the Chipmunk creek, Coon river, Spring creek, Bad Ax river and Battle creek. Chipmunk creek rises on section 4, town of Hamburg, runs westerly and empties into Coon slough, on section 3, in Bergen. It is a small stream and is fed by springs. Coon river rises in the town of Christiana on section 21, flows northeasterly, westerly and southwesterly until it empties into Coon slough, on section 32, in Bergen. The stream is rapid and is fed by springs. It affords water privileges for the running of several mills. There is also one flouring mill on Chipmunk. The next stream south is the Bad Ax river with northern and southern tributaries. The north branch of th Bad Ax rises on section 31, town of Christiana; the south branch rises in the town of Franklin; the two unite on section 12, in the town of Genoa, forming the Bad Ax proper, which thence flows westerly into the Mississippi on section 16, in Genoa. Battle creek rises on section 2, town of Wheatland, runs southwesterly and flows into Winnebago slough. Sloughs are arms of the main river; some have currents while others are simply formed of back water. The term coolie is still used in this vicinity for valley.

There are ridges all nearly of the same altitude extending back from the Mississippi between the various streams before mentioned, having a southern and northern slope to them. On the south side of the South Bad Ax was originally an undulating prairie, named by the early settlers of the county, and still called, West Prairie. This is in the town of Sterling. The residue of the western half of the county was formerly, for the most part, timbered, and had a heavy growth of white and red oak, interspersed with oak grub-lands, except along the streams where burr oak and the different varieties of elm and maple prevailed. There is also in the towns of Coon and Christiana, and extending into Viroqua, and part of Jefferson, an open country known as Coon Prairie.

The towns of Christiana, Viroqua and Franklin form the water-shed between the streams flowing into the Mississippi and those emptying into the Kickapoo and its west branch. The east central part of the county is drained by the Kickapoo and its two branches. This includes the towns of Clinton, Webster, Liberty, Kickapoo, Whitestown and Stark and portions of Forest, Union, Christiana, Viroqua and Franklin. The general course of the west branch of the Kickapoo is nearly south, while that of the east branch is southwesterly. They unite in the town of Kickapoo, on section 33; thence, the main stream flows southwesterly until it crosses into the county of Crawford, on section 18. There are numerous creeks all having a southeast course, flowing into th

Kickapoo and the west branch, from the eastern side of the towns of Christiana, Viroqua and Franklin, and the western side of the town of Kickapoo. Geographically then, it may be said, in general terms, that the dividing ridge, or table land, running north and south through the county, is situated about twenty miles east of the Mississippi, and from six to eight miles west of the west branch of Kickapoo and the Kickapoo proper, having an altitude above the Mississippi, of about 1,000 feet. And it may be here remarked, that all the waters which drain Vernon county either flow directly into the Mississippi, or find their way thither through the Wisconsin.

From either side of the ridge between the east and west branches, spurs put off but of no very great extent. Both the branches head in Monroe county. Between the east branch and the head waters of the Baraboo, there is a table land known as the dividing ridge as it divides the waters of the Kickapoo from those of the Baraboo and Lemonweir. The whole of the town of Hillsborough and the northern portion of Greenwood are drained by the Baraboo; while the southern portion of the town last mentioned is drained by Pine river, as well as the southeast portion of the town of Union. A large part of the town of Forest, the whole of Whitestown and Stark, and the eastern portion of Clinton and Webster are drained by the east branch or main Kickapoo, as it may be termed, as it carries more water than the west branch. It forms a drainage also for the east side of Liberty and the northeast part of the town of Kickapoo. The east sides of the towns of Christiana and Viroqua, and the west sides of Clinton, Webster and Liberty, are drained into the west branch; while the parent stream drains in Vernon county, only the southwest portion of the town of Kickapoo and the northeast corner of Franklin.

The soil of the east half of Vernon county is a clay loam, and is timbered with red and white oak, pine, soft maple, sugar maple and the elm; also with other less numerous varieties. At an early day the Kickapoo proper and the east branch were bordered on either side within the limits of the county by a heavy pine forest, but these have disappeared by the hands of man.

On the whole, it may be said that the surface of Vernon county along the water courses is rather broken and bluffy; elsewhere, undulating and favorable for tillage. The three prairies, Coon prairie, Round prairie and West prairie, early attracted the attention of the pioneer and emigrant, and invited occupancy and cultivation in the first general settlement of we tern Wisconsin. The surface of these prairies and that of the valleys throughout the county form a soil especially valuable for agriculture. It is rich in the elements of vegetable life and favorably constituted for the production of all the cereals and grasses adapted to this climate. In other portions the grasses grow luxuriantly.

All the western slope of the county is a deep clay subsoil except on the prairies, covered with black loam from four to eight inches in thickness. The prairies are of a deep vegetable loam, black in color extending to the depth of a number of feet.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

But the great and distinctive feature of the county of Vernon is the Mississippi river, which washes the whole of its western boundary, and nearly the whole of the western boundary of the State. This river (Indian *Miche Sepe*, Great Water, or Great River,) is the principal one of North America; and including its chief branch, the Missouri, the longest in the world. It rises in the high lands of Minnesota, in a cluster of small lakes, and near the sources of the Red River of the North and the rivers which flow into Lake Superior. Its sources are 1680 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, into which it enters. It ranks after the Amazon as the mightiest stream on the world's surface. It drains a superficial area of one-seventh part of North America, and con-

stitutes with its numerous affluents and feeders one of the grandest riparian systems known to to exist. From north to south it embraces a length of 4,400 miles, included between the 29th and 48th parallels of north latitude, and drains a basin computed at 1,226,000 square miles.

The actual rise of the Mississippi is in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, flowing thence south-southeast as far as the point of junction of the States of Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky, where it is joined by the Ohio—having previously received the waters of the Missouri a few miles above St. Louis. Its upper course is broken in many places by considerable cataracts, such as the falls of St. Anthony. Its next great arm below the Ohio is the Arkansas, next the Red river, which unites with it in Louisiana. Besides these main arteries, it receives the Wisconsin, Iowa, Des Moines, Illinois, White, St. Francis and Washita rivers, and finally emerges into the Gulf of Mexico, 120 miles below New Orleans, by a delta of several mouths, three of which—the northeast pass, the main or southeast pass, and the southwest pass, are the principal ones. The last 300 miles of its course intersects a country so low and level, that embankments called levees have been constructed to protect the lands on either side from freshets and inundations.

The Mississippi is navigable from its mouth to the Falls of St. Anthony, 2,200 miles, and by smaller boats above the Falls; or by the Missouri, 3,950 miles, and has many navigable branches, the chief of which are the Red River 340 miles from its mouth; the Yazoo, 534 miles; the Arkansas, 700 miles; the Ohio, 1,053; the Missouri, 1,253. The Mississippi thus furnishes an inland means of water communication such as no other country in the world can parallel. The navigation of this great stream is, however, impeded in many parts by contrary currents, and by obstacles in the shape of large trees, the trunks of which are imbedded far below the water's surface. The river forms a portion of the boundaries of ten States, having the southern part of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and most of Louisiana on the west bank; and Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi on the east. The chief towns situated on its banks are New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg, Memphis, St. Louis, Quincy, Keokuk, Galena, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The upper Mississippi, above the junction of the Missouri, flows through a picturesque and beautiful country. The great lower valley is 500 miles long, and from thirty to fifty miles wide. The delta, through which flows its numerous bayous, is 150 miles wide. The alluvial plain through which the river winds has an area of 31,200 square miles; and the delta, 14,000 square miles, much of which, except a few bluffs, is protected by levees. The descent of the plain is 320 feet, or eight inches per mile. The river at high water is higher than the plain, and the banks higher than the swamps of the interior. The great floods rise forty feet above low water at the head of the plain, and twenty feet at New Orleans, and for the whole distance the river averages 3,000 feet wide, and is from seventy-five to 120 deep. There is no apparent increase from the largest branches; and it is estimated that forty per cent of the floods are lost in the great marshes. Thousands of acres of land upon its banks are annually carried away by the current, with their growth of timber. Such, in brief, is the wonderful river which washes the whole western boundary of Vernon county.

THE BARABOO RIVER.

The Baraboo river rises in the northeastern part of Vernon county, and in the southeastern part of Monroe county, runs in a general southeast course through Sauk county, where it breaks into the valley between the two east and west ranges, through a narrow gorge in the northern range. Turning then east, it runs along the middle of the valley, between the two ranges for about fifteen miles, and then breaking northward, through the north range, follows its northern side in an easterly direction

to the Wisconsin river, into which it empties on section 28, township 12, range 9 east, in the town of Caledonia, Columbia county. The Baraboo is a stream of considerable size, and yields a number of very excellent water-powers.

THE KICKAPOO RIVER.

The Kickapoo rises in Monroe county, that is, its main or east branch; which is frequently termed the Kickapoo proper. It runs a southwest course after entering Vernon county, through the towns of Whitestown, Stark, touching Webster, and then after crossing into Richland, in which county it flows in a south course, returns to Vernon, in the town of Liberty, and at a point on section 33, in the town of Kickapoo, receives the west branch. The river afterward takes a southwesterly course, leaving Vernon county on section 16, in the town last mentioned. The river runs through Crawford county, in a southerly direction and empties into the Wisconsin, on section 17, in the town of Wauzeka, just below the village of the same name.

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

Having given the general physical aspects of the county so that a correct idea can be formed of the surface features as a whole, we now give the physical geography and surface geology of each congressional township, beginning with township 13, of range 1 east, (town of Greenwood). In these descriptions will be noticed, briefly, the principal characteristics of each township in the county, with reference to its general features, its water sheds, streams, springs, prairies, forests, soils and subsoils, clays and underlying formations.

Township 13, range 1 east, (Greenwood).—The water shed or dividing ridge between Pine river and the Baraboo, passes through the township in a northwesterly direction, from sections 36 to 18. This causes considerable high, rolling land. The remainder of the township is very hilly and rough. It is heavily timbered with maple, elm and basswood. The soil is a clay loam. The formations are Potsdam and Lower Magnesian; the former occupying two-thirds of the township. A small one of St. Peter's sandstone exists in the north half of section 21.

Township 14, range 1 east, (Hillsborough) — This township is well watered by numerous branches of the Baraboo river, and contains many fine springs. The country is rolling, but the hills are not so high or so steep as in Greenwood, and the valleys are quite wide. The country is well settled. The timber is chiefly white oak, and confined to the ridges. The formations are Potsdam and Lower Magnesian; the latter is found only on high ridges, and its area does not exceed one-seventh of the whole.

Township 13, range 1 west, (Union).—The divide between the Kickapoo and Pine rivers runs irregularly through the township in a southwest direction from section 2 to section 32. It is generally narrow, and much cut up with ravines. The soil is clay with a subsoil of stiff red clay, containing many flints, and often

eight or ten feet deep. The valleys are wide. The soil is sometimes sandy and sometimes a black and swampy clay. The township is very heavily timbered with maple, elm and basswood. Good springs are numerous; a very large one is on the southwest quarter of section 2. The formations are Potsdam and Lower Magnesian; the area of which is about equal.

Township 14, range 1 west (Forest).—The divide between the Kickapoo and Pine rivers runs nearly north and south from section 35 to section 1. It is much wider and better adapted for farming than in township 13 (town of Union), and is about all under cultivation, producing heavy crops of wheat and oats. The principal streams are Varner and Billings creeks. Their valleys are often half a mile wide, with a rich black soil. The valleys are heavily timbered, chiefly with maple. The Potsdam sandstone covers about one-third of the country, and the Lower Magnesian the rest.

Township 13, range 2 west (Stark).—This township is very rough, hilly, and heavily timbered. It is watered by the Kickapoo, Otter, Bear, Jug and Weister creeks and their tributaries. The Potsdam covers about two-thirds and the Lower Magnesian one-third of the township.

Township 14, range 2 west (Whitestown).—The principal stream is the Kickapoo. The best land is on the ridges on the western side of the township. The soil is clay, somewhat sandy in the valleys. The timber is maple, elm and basswood, with occasional white oak groves on the ridges. The formations are the same as township 13, just mentioned.

North half of Township 11, range 3 west, (Kickapoo, in part).—The eastern and central parts of this township, only the north half of which is in Vernon county, consists of high, wide, rolling ridges; and the western part of steep, rocky bluffs. The township is watered by the Kickapoo river on the west and north. Fine springs are very numerous. The valley of the Kickapoo averages about a mile in width. The soil throughout the township is clay, and the timber very heavy. The Potsdam covers about one-third of the township, the Lower Magnesian one-half, and the St. Peters one-sixth. Many loose boulders of St. Peters are found on the ridges, where the formation can not be found in place. The general character of the formation in this township, from theridge to the Kickapoo, is as follows:

Name.	Feet.
St. Peters sandstone	50
Lower Magnesian limestone	150
Potsdam sandstone	300
From ridge to valley, total	500

Township 12, range 3 west, (Liberty and part of Kickapoo).—This township is very hilly, being cut up by the Kickapoo, west fork of the Kickapoo, east fork of the same and the Harrison and Bishop branches. The intervening ridges are very high and steep. The west fork of the Kickapoo forms a dividing line as regards the timber. On the east side of the stream the timber is very dense, consisting of maple, elm and basswood; but in the country on the west side, the timber is thin and small, and consists chiefly of oak groves on the ridges. It is a very striking feature of the country. The formations are the Potsdam and Lower Magnesian, and about equally divided.

Township 13, range 3 west (Webster).—The general features of this township are similar to those of township 12, same range. It is well timbered and watered. Clay beds are frequently met with in the valleys in the Potsdam, on the surface of which the water comes out in springs for long distances. There is a good deal of handsome scenery on the west fork of the Kickapoo. The formations are the same as in township 12, same range.

Township 14, range 3 west (Clinton).—The ridge dividing the Kickapoo from the west fork runs from section 34 to section 3, making considerable good farming land in the center of the township; in other parts the land is very broken, with steep hills and ravines. The soil is clay

and the timber heavy. The formations are Potsdam and Lower Magnesian in nearly equal parts.

North Half of Township 11, range 4 west, (parts of Franklin and Kickapoo).—This township is composed chiefly of high, rolling, ridge land, with a clay soil. In the central part of the town the soil is rather sandy, owing to a long belt of St. Peters, which crosses the township from section 4, to section 34. The timber consists of groves of large white oak. The formations are: Potsdam, one-sixth, Lower Magnesian, two-thirds, and St. Peters sand-tone, one-sixth.

Township 12, range 4 west, (parts of Franklin and Viroqua).—The divide between the Kickapoo and the Mississippi passes through the township from section 30 to section 5. The land is high and rolling, and covered with groves of small timber, chiefly black and white oak. It is well watered by numerous small streams and is fine farming land. The soil is a sand clay. There are numerous mounds of St. Peters on the ridges. Small sink holes are also quite frequent. Formations: St. Peters and Lower Magnesian in nearly equal parts.

Township 13, range 4 west, (Viroqua).—The divide continues from section 32 to section 5. The greater part of the township is high, rolling prairie, well watered by numerous small streams and springs. The soil is clay. The timber is rather thin and small, consisting chiefly of black oak. The country resembles that of the lead region. The formations are the same as in township 12, same range.

Township 14, range 4 west, (Christiana).—The topographical features of this township greatly resemble those of township 13, same range. The divide continues from section 35 to section 1, and is very high, wide and level. The soil is a deep clay, owing to the absence of any sandstone formation. The timber is a small second growth of black oak, and is chiefly confined to the ravines. It is very difficult to obtain water on the ridge, as it lies from fifty to 150 feet deep. The formation is chiefly Lower Magnesian.

North Half of Township 11, range 5 west, (parts of Franklin and Sterling).—This is chiefly a prairie country, the divide is high, extending from section 35, in Crawford county, to section 1, in the town of Franklin. There are no large streams in the township, but numerous small streams running east and west from the divide. Small springs are quite numerous. The formations are St. Peters and Lower Magnesian, in about equal parts.

Township 12, range 5 west, (parts of Jefferson, Sterling and Franklin).—The township is very hilly and broken, watered by the branches of the Bad Ax river. The valleys average about a quarter of a mile in width. The ridges are wide; soil is clay; timber, small oak. The formations are Potsdam, Lower Magnesian and St. Peters.

Township 13, range 5 west, (Jefferson).—The township is well watered by two branches of the Bad Ax river, flowing in the central and northern parts. The southern and eastern parts are a fine prairie country; the northern, central, and western parts, are heavily timbered, with maple, elm, oak, etc. This timber is confined to the higher parts of the ridges, that about the streams being comparatively small and sparse. The formations are the same as in township 12, same range.

Township 14, range 5 west, (Coon).—The country in this township is chiefly rolling ridge land, but broken by numerous streams and small ravines. It is well watered by the several branches of Coon creek. The valleys of the two principal branches are from one-half to one mile wide, with a rich loamy soil and sandy subsoil. Towards the head of the streams and on the ridges, the soil is clay and the timber large white oak. The formations are Potsdam, Lower Magnesian and St. Peters; the second being the principal one.

North half of township 11, range 6 west (parts of Sterling and Wheatland).—This town

consists chiefly of high, rolling, ridge land, having an elevation from 400 to 550 feet above the Mississippi. The principal ridge is very wide and runs east and west through the northern part of the township, with numerous small ridges running north and south. The soil is clay, in some parts rather sandy; the timber small but abundant. Water is very scarce on the ridges. The formations are Potsdam, Lower Magnesian and St. Peters; the two latter predominating.

Township 12, range 6 west (parts of Sterling, Wheatland, Genoa and Harmony).—The principal stream is the Bad Ax river, which, with its numerous small tributaries and springs, supplies the township abundantly with water. The valley averages about half a mile in width, with a rich loamy soil and sandy sub-soil. The timber in the valleys is small and scattering black oak. The ridges are wide and rolling; soil, clay; and timber, large white oak. The formations are the same as in township 11, same range.

Township 13, range 6 west (Harmony)—There are two high, rolling ridges in this town, each about a mile in width, running in an east and west course; one in the northern and the other in the southern part of the township. The soil on each is clay. The timber on the southern ridge is small and scattering black oak; on the northern ridge, it consists of groves of large white oak. The northeast quarter of the township is especially heavily timbered. Water is very scarce in the vicinity of the ridges. There is but one stream, the north fork of the Bad Ax, which runs westerly through the center of the township. Its valley is about half a mile wide; soil rather sandy. The formation is Lower Magnesian, with the exception of a narrow strip of Potsdam in the valley of the Bad Ax.

Township 14, range 6 west (Hamburg)—The general topographical features of this township are about the same as in township 13, same range, consisting of high, broken ridges, and one principal stream. The soil on the ridges is clay; the timber is white oak and black oak. The valley of Coon creek varies from a half mile to a mile in width. The soil is a rich loam, with sandy sub-soil. There are numerous small hills and benches of alluvium in the valley, the materials of which appear to have been derived from the hills above during the progress of denudation, and have since been partially cut away by the changes in the stream, so that exposures are frequently seen as much as fifty feet thick, of irregularly stratified clay and sand. About one-third of the township is covered with Potsdam and the remainder with Lower Magnesian.

North fractional half of township 11, range 7 west (part of Wheatland)—This township, like all of townships of the same number, lies in both Crawford and Vernon counties, and is made fractional by the Mississippi. Only its north half lies in Vernon. As a township, it is hilly, and the best land lies on a high and narrow ridge in the eastern part of the township, which is parallel to the river, and about 500 feet above it. The river runs close to the bluffs, which are high and precipitous. The soil is clay and the timber white oak. The formations are Potsdam, Lower Magnesian and St. Peters, the second being the prevailing one.

Fractional Township 12, range 7 west (part of Genoa).—This, like township 11, same range, is a fractional one. It is well watered by the Mississippi and Bad Ax rivers and their small tributaries. About the larger streams there is a great deal of low, flat, swampy land. The soil is clay throughout the town, and the timber chiefly small oak. The valley of the Bad Ax frequently contains very large and thick beds of alluvium. The ridges lie about 500 feet above the river, and form a rolling prairie country, with small groves of oak. All the formations from the Trenton to the Potsdam inclusive are present. The Trenton consists of a small outlier in the southeast part of the township. The general sections of this

township, from the ridge to the Mississippi river, is as follows:

NAME.	FEET.
St. Peters sandstone	80
Lower Magnesian limestone	230
Potsdam sandstone	150
Total from ridge to valley	460

There are about twenty-two square miles in this township.

FRACTIONAL TOWNSHIP 13, range 7 west, (part of Genoa and Bergen).—There are about twenty-four square miles contained in this township, of which the greater part is hilly and broken. The ridge dividing Coon creek and the Bad Ax river passes northeasterly through the township. It is much cut up with ravines and has but little timber. The soil is clay. The formation is chiefly lower magnesian.

FRACTIONAL TOWNSHIP 14, range 7 west, (Bergen).—The western half of this township lies in the immediate valley of the Mississippi, and is an alluvial bottom, consisting of swamps, hay-meadows and timbered islands. The eastern half comprises the valleys of Coon creek and Chipmunk "coolie," each about a mile wide, and the intervening ridge. The soil is clay on the ridges; and more sandy in the valleys. The timber is small and confined to the ridges. The formations are Potsdam and Lower Magnesian, in about equal quantities.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Potsdam Sandstone.—On the southwest quarter of section 18, township 11, range 3 west, in the town of Kickapoo, this county, is one of the finest exposures of Potsdam sandstone in all this section of country. The remarkable alterations of thin beds of sandstone and Magnesian limestone, near the top of the Potsdam, have not their counterpart in all this part of the State.

The productions of the Potsdam, which are of importance in an economical point of view, are iron, building stone and mineral waters. Iron is found in Vernon county, where it usually occurs as a hematite. It is found on the northeast quarter of section 10, in township 11, range 3 west, in the town of Kickapoo; on the northwest quarter of section 8, in township 14, range 3 west, in the town of Clinton; also on the northeast quarter of section 20, and the southeast quarter of section 17, in the same town; and some very good specimens of hematite have been found on the southwest quarter of section 3, in that town. The same may be said of the corners of sections 15, 16, 21 and 22. This mineral has also been found on the northwest quarter of section 21, in township 13, range 3 west, in the town of Webster.

Lower Magnesian Limestone.—On the southeast quarter of section 14, in township 11, range 3 west, in the town of Kickapoo, the junction of the St. Peters and Lower Magnesian is clearly marked by a bed of soft, yellowish white clay, about four feet thick. This clay resembles the pipe clay of the Trenton limestone, found in the lead region, south of the Wisconsin. At De Soto, on the Mississippi river, the Lower Magnesian limestone affords a fine, close-grained and durable building stone. It is of a very light color, and often nearly white. In the village of Springville, in the town of Jefferson, and along the banks of the stream a short distance below the village, the Lower Magnesian presents good outcrops. It occurs in beds from one to four feet thick, of a light yellow color, free from flints, and makes a very handsome building stone. Along Coon river, in the town of Hamburg, there are numerous good exposures of the lower beds of the formation. There are many other exposures in the county, but the foregoing are among the best. In general, they may be found on all streams.

No very extensive or valuable deposits of metallic ore are found in the Lower Magnesian formation, in the southwestern part of Wisconsin. A few localities of copper and lead exist, which shows that the formation is not entirely destitute of metallic contents. Economically considered, this formation is most useful in af-

fording good building stone and lime, both of which articles are abundant in all parts of the country where the Lower Magnesian limestone becomes the surface rock.

The only localities where copper has been found in Vernon county, are in the towns of Webster and Clinton, one in each, where only a single specimen has been discovered; but building stone and lime are obtained in many localities.

St. Peters Sandstone.—In this county the St. Peters sandstone becomes the surface rock in many localities. At the village of Coon Prairie, section 5, in township 13, range 4 west, in the town of Viroqua, on the ridge dividing the Kickapoo from the Mississippi, this formation forms the surface rock. A spur of it also extends in a northwesterly direction as far as section 22, township 14, range 5 west (the town of Coon), forming a belt averaging a mile and a half in width. Proceeding south from Coon Prairie village to Viroqua, the sandstone covers nearly all of the western half of township 13, range 4 west (town of Viroqua), and presents a number of fine exposures:

1. A mound in the southwest quarter of section 5, and one in the northwest quarter of section 8, all near the south line of section 5.

2. Three mounds in the northwest quarter of section 21, all near the north line of the section and about fifty feet high.

3. A ridge consisting of ledges of sandstone fifty feet high, extending from near the center of section 17, nearly to the northwest corner of section 18, presenting good exposures through almost the entire distance.

At Viroqua, a branch of the main ridge extends to the west, a distance of twelve miles, between the north and south forks of the Bad Ax river. The sandstone on this ridge averages a mile and a quarter in width, with several small lateral branches. Continuing along the principal divide from Viroqua to the south line of township 12, range 4 west (town of Franklin), the St. Peters covers nearly all the western half of that township.

In township 11, range 4 west (town of Franklin), a spur of the principal divide, covered with sandstone from half a mile to two miles in width, occupies the central part of the township, extending from section 4, in Vernon county, to section 34, in Crawford county.

In township 11, range 5 west, in Vernon and Crawford counties, the sandstone on the principle divide covers the greater part of the township, with a fine exposure in two mounds near the center of section 5, (town of Sterling), Vernon county. From the northeast corner of this township (town of Sterling), a high and very irregular ridge, with numerous lateral branches, extends west nearly to the Mississippi river, dividing Rush creek in Crawford county, from the south fork of the Bad Ax, in Vernon county. This ridge is covered with sandstone, the width of the belt varying from one to three miles. There are two good exposures formed by mounds; one a short distance south of the center of section 16, township 11, range 6 west (southwest section of Sterling), and the other in the southeast quarter of the same section.

In addition to the foregoing, there are a number of stated areas in Vernon county of which the following may be mentioned :

1. In township 12, range 5 west, (townships of Jefferson, Sterling and Franklin), on sections 15, 16, 21 and 22 there is an area equal to a section and a half.

2. In township 14, range 4 west, (Christiana), on sections 20, 21, 28 and 29 is a sandstone area equal to a little more than half a square mile; also, west of the quarter post of sections 34 and 3, on the south line of the township is an isolated mound of sandstone forming a good exposure.

3. On section 3, township 13, range 7 west, (town of Bergen), an area of sandstone extends into section 34, comprising about half a section.

4. In township 11, range 4 west, (towns of Kickapoo and Franklin), is a large area of

sandstone lying on the ridge west of the Kickapoo river. It is situated on sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 in Vernon county, and on sections 24, 25, 28, 33, 35 and 36 in Crawford county, comprising an area of about five sections.

5. In township 12, range 3 west, (town of Liberty), on the ridge between the Kickapoo river and its western branch, is a narrow ridge of sandstone, about four miles long and a half a mile wide, running through sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 13 and 14, and ending on sections 34 and 35 in township 13, range 3 west, (town of Webster).

6. In township 14, range 3 west, (town of Clinton), on the ridge just mentioned, is an area of sandstone lying on sections 15, 16, 21, 22, 27 and 28, and covering a surface equal to one section.

Trenton Limestone.—This formation forms the surface rock in the following places in Vernon county:

1. In township 11, range 5 west, (town of Franklin), on sections 14 and 15; and sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 35 in Crawford county; and on the divide between the Mississippi and Kickapoo rivers.

2. On the same divide and on sections 15, 16 and 21, of township 12, range 4 west, (town of Franklin), is an area equal to about three-quarters of a section. This is the most northerly point to which the Trenton formation has been traced in this part of the State.

3. In township 11, range 6 west, (town of Sterling), on section 1 is an area equal to half a section. There is also on section 10 an area equal to a quarter section. These last two areas are situated on the high ridge which separates the Bad Ax river from Rush creek in Crawford county.

CHAPTER III.

ANCIENT INHABITANTS.

The first people of Vernon county, who were they? This question, of course, can never be answered. We know that, scattered over it, in various directions, there once lived a race concerning which all that has come down to us is exceedingly shadowy. These people are usually denominated

THE MOUND BUILDERS.

Vestiges of the labor of the so-called Mound Builders still exist in various parts of the county of Vernon, in the form of earthworks, consisting of mounds, some rudely representing animals; others seemingly like low battlements; while a third variety are simply elevations, usually conical in shape. Although more plentiful in the vicinity of the Mississippi and the Kickapoo rivers, yet they are all above the high water mark. They are numerous in the towns of Liberty, Sterling and Wheatland, and are in existence in Viroqua, and in other towns. What all these earthworks were for—what uses they subserved—is absolutely unknown. It is probable that the ingenuity and research of man may never reach beyond conjecture in determining the object of these mounds. And of the hands that shaped them, we know nothing.

The most noted of these earthworks in the county are those to be seen on the farm of H. L. Turner, on section 24, township 12, range 3 west, in the town of Liberty. In some respects

they are the most remarkable of any in the State as yet discovered. We give a sketch of them, the first one that has been given to the public. It is from the pen of Mr. Turner himself:

"There are thirty-two mounds on the place. Scattered around in groups of one or more on about 100 acres of land, of a dry, sandy soil, being above high water mark, the mounds are always on good dry land. They are of an even texture of earth throughout, showing that they are built of soil from the surface where they are constructed. They are of various forms and sizes. Some are round, some are long, straight mounds of earth; some are in the form of animals and some are in the form of birds; all are very distinct, and show clearly what they are. But they vary from the animals and birds of the present time.

"The first group consists of three mounds. Two of these are nearly in the form of deer lying on their sides, facing each other, their heads about two rods apart. They are about six rods long in their bodies; their tails six or eight rods long. The knee joints of both forward and hind legs are bent back, and the tails are very long for deer. The other mound is in the form of a bear lying on his side, and is about five rods long.

About fifty rods northwest from this is group No 2. consisting of two mounds in the form of a bear lying on his side, the knee joint of the fore and hind legs bending back. They are some six rods long; their legs are toward each other. They are about six rods apart, one about its length ahead of the other.

About forty rods to the north of this group is group No. 3 consisting of thirteen round mounds, in two rows; one of the rows is straight—the largest mounds are in the middle. The other row is in a curve, in which there are seven mounds. From this group of mounds in a southwest direction, about forty rods, is group No. 4 consisting of two mounds; one a straight mound of earth about four rods long; the other one is a round mound directly in line with the other.

About fifty rods to the southeast of this fourth group is a large mound in the form of a bird, his wings and tail extended as though sailing in the air. From tip to tip of wings is about thirty rods. This mound is called the Eagle, on account of its large size, being the largest on the place. About thirty rods to the northwest of the Eagle is another mound in the form of a bird, about eight rods in length, of a more compact form then the Eagle. Its wings and tail are extended like a bird sailing in the air. Hawk is the name of this mound. About fifty rods to the south of the Hawk is a small round mound. From this round mound in a southwest direction is group No. 5, consisting of two mounds, one is in the form of a beaver crouched on the ground, his legs under him; the other mound is the same animal lying on his side, and forward of the other. Those mounds are about six rods in length. To the north of group No. 5 about twenty-five rods distant, is group No. 6 consisting of two mounds in the form of birds. They are alike, both flying the same way. They are side by side, the tips of the wings just touching each other. They are flying south. These are called the Wild Geese. To the northwest of the Wild Geese, about thirty rods distant, is a straight mound about six rods in length. To the north of the Wild Geese, about thirty rods distant, is a group of four mounds, two of them are in the form of a beaver crouched upon the ground with his feet under him. The two other mounds are straight in line with each other, with about two rods between them; the length of these mounds are from six to eight rods each.

On the same section in the Kickapoo valley, on the farm now owned by David Sommers, are numerous earthworks of like character as those on the farm of Mr. Turner. The average height of these mounds was, when the country was first settled, from two to three feet.

THE INDIANS.

The earliest record we have of the occupation of Vernon county and contiguous territory, by

the Indians, is that given on the map of Samuel Champlain, dated in 1632. It is there seen that reports had reached the ears of the French upon the waters of the St. Lawrence, of a great river to the westward of Lake Huron and to the southward of Lake Superior, but which it was said flowed north into the lake last mentioned. This was a vague account of the Mississippi. Upon that river are located savages, which, probably, were those afterward known as

THE SIOUX.

Bands of this Nation occupied the whole country immediately north of the Wisconsin and adjacent to the Mississippi. It is not known that they had any village within what is now Vernon county; but this region was, probably, their hunting grounds, if they did not actually occupy it with their wigwams.

It was known to the French, also, before any white man had ever set foot upon any part of Wisconsin or the northwest, that these Sioux were in the habit of going in their canoes to trade with the Winnebagoes, who were located at that time (before 1634) around Lake Winnebago. Farther than this, no knowledge had been gained of these savages. Not many years afterward they must have withdrawn farther up the Mississippi, leaving the country upon and down this river for some distance from the mouth of the Wisconsin, without inhabitants. At this time, the nearest savages, eastward, were the Kickapoos, Miamis and Mascoutins, who were located on Fox river above Lake Winnebago. Such was the case in 1634, when John Nicollet, the first man to explore the present State of Wisconsin, reached that river.

THE SACS AND FOXES.

What is now Vernon county and its surrounding country remained a derelict region until finally the Sacs and Foxes from the east came to Fox river and then moved westward to the Wisconsin. Of all the tribes who have inhabited this State, they are the most noted. The Sacs were sometimes called Sauks or Saukies and the Foxes were frequently known as the Outagamies. They are of the Algonquin family, and are first mentioned in 1665, by Father Allouez, but as separate tribes. Afterward, however, because of the identity of their language, and their associations, they were and still are considered one Nation. In December, 1669, Allouez found upon the shores of Green bay a village of Sacs, occupied also by members of other tribes; and early in 1670 he visited a village of the same Indians located upon the Fox river of Green bay, at a distance of four leagues from its mouth. Here a device of these Indians for catching fish arrested the attention of the missionary. "From one side of the river to the other," he writes, "they made a barricade, planting great stakes, two fathoms from the water, in such a manner that there is, as it were, a bridge above for the fishes, who by the aid of a little bow-net, easily take sturgeons and all other kinds of fish which this pier stops, although the water does not cease to flow between the stakes." When the Jesuit father first obtained, five years previous, a knowledge of this tribe, they were represented as savage above all others, great in numbers, and without any permanent dwelling place. The Foxes were of two stocks—one calling themselves Outagamies or Foxes, whence our English name; the other, Musquakink, or men of red clay, the name now used by the tribe. They lived in early times with their kindred the Sacs east of Detroit, and as some say near the St. Lawrence. They were driven west, and settled at Saginaw, a name derived from the Sacs. Thence they were forced by the Iroquois to Green bay; but were compelled to leave that place and settle on Fox river.

Allouez, on the 24th of April, 1670, arrived at a village of the Foxes, situated on Wolf river, a northern tributary of the Fox. "The Nation," he declares, "is renowned for being

numerous; they have more than 400 men bearing arms; the number of women and children is greater, on account of polygamy which exists among them—each man having commonly four wives, some of them six, and others as high as ten." The missionary found that the Foxes had retreated to those parts to escape the persecutions of the Iroquois. Allouez established among these Indians his mission of St. Mark, rejoicing in the fact that in less than two years he had baptized "sixty children and some adults." The Foxes, at the summons of De la Barre, in 1684, sent warriors against the Five Nations. They also took part in Denonville's more serious campaign; but soon after became hostile to the French. As early as 1693, they had plundered several on their way to trade with the Sioux, alleging that they were carrying arms and amunitions to their ancient enemies frequently causing them to make portages to the southward in crossing from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. Afterward they became reconciled to the French; but the reconciliation was of short duration. In 1712, Fort Detroit, then defended by only a handful of men, was attacked by them in conjunction with the Mascoutins and Kickapoos. However, in the end, by calling in friendly Indians, the garrison not only protected themselves but were enabled to act on the offensive, destroying the greater part of the besieging force.

The Nation continued their ill will to the French. The consequence was that their territory in 1716 had been invaded and they were reduced to sue for peace. But their friendship was not of long continuance. In 1718 the Foxes numbered 500 men and "abounded in women and children." They are spoken of at that date as being very industrious, raising large quantities of Indian corn. In 1728 another expedition was sent against them by the French. Meanwhile the Menomonees had also become hostile; so, too, the Sacs, who were now the allies of the Foxes. The result of the enterprise was, an attack upon and the defeat of a number of Monomonees; the burning of the wigwams of the Winnebagoes (after passing the deserted village of the Sacs upon the Fox river), that tribe, also, at this date being hostile; and the destruction of the fields of the Foxes. They were again attacked in their own country by the French, in 1730, and defeated. In 1734 both the Sacs and Foxes came in conflict with the same foe; but this time the French were not as successful as on previous expeditions. In 1736 the Sacs and Foxes' were "connected with the government of Canada;" but it is certain they were far from being friendly to the French.

The conflict between France and Great Britain, commencing in 1754, found the Sacs and Foxes allied with the former power, against the English, although not long previous to this time they were the bitter enemies of the French. At the close of that contest so disastrous to the interests of France in North America, these tribes readily gave in their adhesion to the conquerors, asking that English traders might be sent them. The two Nations, then about equally divided, numbered, in 1761, about 700 warriors. Neither of the tribes took part in Pontiac's war, but they befriended the English. The Sacs had emigrated farther to the westward; but the Foxes, at least a portion of them, still remained upon the waters of the river of Green bay, which perpetuates their name. A few years later, however, and the former were occupants of the upper Wisconsin; also, to a considerable distance below the portage, where their chief town was located. Further down the same stream was the upper village of the Foxes, while their lower one was situated near its mouth at the site of the present city of Prairie du Chien. At this date, 1766, and even later, what is now Vernon county, was within the territory claimed as theirs. Gradually, however, they retreated down the Mississippi until, before the close of the century, all their possessions in what is now Wisconsin, was in the extreme southwest. They no longer had their hunting grounds to the

northward of the Wisconsin river. Another tribe had, as it were, crowded them out.

During the war of the Revolution, the Sacs and Foxes continued the firm friends of the English. In 1804 they ceded their lands south of the Wisconsin river to the United States; so that they no longer were owners of any lands within this State. From that date, therefore, these allied tribes can not be considered as belonging to the Indian Nations of Wisconsin. They were generally friendly to Great Britain during the War of 1812–15, but they soon made peace with the United States after that contest ended. A striking episode in their subsequent history, is the Black Hawk war, which will be narrated in a subsequent chapter. The exact date of the Foxes leaving the Wisconsin river country is unknown. They sold the prairie at the mouth of that stream, to some Canadian French traders in 1781, and subsequently vacated their village. Probably about the beginning of the present century they had abandoned this region as their home, although they long after visited it for the purposes of trade.

THE WINNEBAGOES.

The Nation which displaced the Sacs and Foxes upon the Wisconsin river and its contiguous territory, including what is now Vernon county, was the Winnebagos. It is now 250 years since the civilized world began to get a knowledge of the Winnebagoes—the "men of the sea," as they were called, pointing, possibly, to their early emigration from the shores of the Mexican gulf, or the Pacific. The territory now included within the limits of Wisconsin, and so much of the State of Michigan as lies north of Green bay, Lake Michigan, the Straits of Mackinaw and Lake Huron were, in early times, inhabited by several tribes of the Algonquin race, forming a barrier to the Dakotas, or Sioux, who had advanced eastward to the Mississippi. But the Winnebagoes, although one of the tribes belonging to the family of the latter, had passed the great river, at some unknown period, and settled upon Winnebago lake. Here, as early as 1634, they were visited by John Nicolet, an agent of France, and a treaty concluded with them. Little more was heard of the Winnebagoes for the next thirty-five years, when, on the 2d of December, 1669, some of that Nation were seen at a Sac village on Green bay, by Father Allouez.

As early at least, as 1670, the French were actively engaged among the Winnebagoes trading. "We found affairs," says one the Jesuit missionaries, who arrived among them in September of that year, "we found affairs there in a pretty bad posture, and the minds of the savages much soured against the French, who were there trading; ill treating them in deeds and words, pillaging and carrying away their merchandise in spite of them, and conducting themselves toward them with insupportable insolences and indignities. The cause of this disorder," adds the missionary, "is that they had received some bad treatment from the French, to whom they had this year come to trade, and particularly from the soldiers, from whom they pretended to have received many wrongs and injuries." It is thus made certain that the arms of France were carried into the territory of the Winnebagoes over 200 years ago.

The Fox river of Green bay was found at that date a difficult stream to navigate. Two Jesuits who ascended the river in 1670, had "three or four leagues of rapids to contend with," when they had advanced "one day's journey" from the head of the bay, "more difficult than those which are common in other rivers, in this, that the flints, over which" they had to walk with naked feet to drag their canoes, were so "sharp and so cutting, that one has all the trouble in the world to hold one's self steady against the great rushing of the waters." At the falls they found an idol that the savages honored; "never failing, in passing, to make him some sacrifice of tobacco, or arrows, or paintings, or other things, to thank him that, by his assistance, they had, in ascend-

ing, avoided the dangers of the waterfalls which are in this stream; or else, if they had to ascend, to pray him to aid them in this perilous navigation." The missionaries caused the idol "to be lifted up by the strength of the arm, and cast into the depths of the river, to appear no more," to the idolatrous savages.

The Winnebagoes, by this time, had not only received considerable spiritual instruction from the Jesuit fathers, but had obtained quite an insight into the mysteries of trading and trafficking with white men; for, following the footsteps of the missionaries, and sometimes preceding them, were the ubiquitous French fur traders. It is impossible to determine precisely what territory was occupied by the Winnebagoes at this early date, farther than that they lived near the head of Green bay.

A direct trade with the French upon the St. Lawrence was not carried on by the Winnebagoes to any great extent until the beginning of the 18th century. As early as 1679, an advance party of LaSalle had collected a large store of furs at the mouth of Green bay, doubtless in a traffic with this tribe and others contiguous to them; generally, however, the surrounding Nations sold their peltries to the Ottawas, who disposed of them, in turn, to the French. The commencement of the eighteenth century found the Winnebagoes firmly in alliance with France, and in peace with the dreaded Iroquois. In 1718, the nation numbered 600 They had moved from the Fox river to Green bay. They were afterward found to have moved up Fox river, locating upon Winnebago lake, which lake was their ancient seat, and from which they had been driven either by fear or the prowess of more powerful tribes of the west and southwest. Their intercourse with the French was gradually extended and generally peaceful, though not always so, joining with them, as did the Menominees, in their wars with the Iroquois, and subsequently in their conflicts with the English, which finally ended in 1760.

When the British, in October, 1761, took possession of the French post, at the head of Green bay, the Winnebagoes were found to number 150 warriors only; their nearest village being at the lower end of Winnebago lake. They had in all, not less than three towns. Their country, at this period, included, not only that lake, but all the streams flowing into it, especially Fox river; afterward extended to the Wisconsin and Rock rivers. They readily changed their course of trade—asking now of the commandant at the fort for English traders to be sent among them. In the Indian outbreak under Pontiac in 1763, they joined with the Menomonees and other tribes to befriend the British garrison at the head of the bay, assisting in conducting them to a place of safety.

They continued their friendship to the English during the revolution, by joining with them against the colonies, and were active in the Indian war of 1790–4, taking part in the attack on Fort Recovery, upon the Maumee, in the present State of Ohio, in 1793. They fought also on the side of the British in the War of 1812–15, aiding, in 1814, to reduce Prairie du Chien. They were then estimated at 4,500. When, in 1816, the government of the United States sent troop to take possession of the Green bay country, by establishing a garrison there, some trouble was anticipated from these Indians, who, at that date, had the reputation of being a bold and warlike tribe. A deputation from the Nation came down Fox river and remonstrated with the American commandant at what was thought to be an intrusion. They were desirous of knowing why a fort was to be established so near them. The reply was that, although the troops were armed for war if necessary, their purpose was peace. Their response was an old one: "If your object is peace, you have too many men; if war, you have too few." However, the display of a number of cannon, which had not yet been mounted, satisfied the Winnebagoes that the Americans were masters

of the situation, and the deputation gave the garrison no farther trouble.

On the 3d of June, 1816, at St Louis, the tribe made a treaty of peace and friendship with the general government; but they continued to levy tribute on all white people who passed up Fox river. English annuities also kept up a bad feeling. At this time, a portion of the tribe was living upon the Wisconsin river, away from the rest of the Nation, which was still seated upon the waters flowing into Green bay. In 1820 they had five villages on Winnebago lake and fourteen on Rock river. In 1825, the claim of the Winnebagoes was an extensive one, so far as territory was concerned. Its southeast boundary stretched away from the source of Rock river, to within forty miles of its mouth, in Illinois, where they had a village. On the west it extended to the heads of the small streams flowing into the Mississippi. To the northward, it reached Black river and the upper Wisconsin, in other words, to the Chippewa territory including what is now Vernon county, but did not extend across Fox river, although they contended for the whole of Winnebago lake. In 1829 a large part of their territory in southwest Wisconsin, lying between Sugar river and the Mississippi, and extending to the Wisconsin river was sold to the general government.

Just previous to this time, occurred the Winnebago war, an account of which will be found in the next chapter. In 1832, all the residue of the Winnebago territory south and east of the Wisconsin and the Fox river of Green bay, was disposed of to the United States.

Finally, in the brief language of the treaty between this tribe (which had become unsettled and wasteful) and the United States, of the 1st of November, 1837, "the Winnebago Nation of Indians" ceded to the general government "all their lands east of the Mississippi." Not an acre was reserved. And the Indians agreed that, within eight months from that date, they would move west of "the great river." This arrangement, however, was not carried out fully. In 1842, there were only 756 at Turkey river, Iowa, their new home, with as many in Wisconsin, and smaller bands elsewhere. All had become lawless and roving. Some removed in 1848; while a party to the number of over 800 left the State as late as 1873. The present home of the tribe is in Nebraska, where they have a reservation north of, and adjacent to the Omahas, containing over 100,000 acres. However, since their first removal beyond the Mississippi, they have several times changed their place of abode. The period of Winnebago occupancy of Vernon county and the region of country contiguous thereto, properly began about the commencement of the present century and ended, virtually, in 1848.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY EXPLORATIONS.

The territory now included within the limits of Vernon county, was first visited along its western border over 200 years ago by Frenchmen, from the river St. Lawrence, in Canada. The first to approach this region of country was John Nicolet, in 1634, who came no nearer than to the village of the Mascoutins, on Fox river, supposed to have been located somewhere on that stream within the present boundaries of Green Lake Co., Wis. A Jesuit missionary, in 1670, also visited the Mascoutins. His name was Claude Allouez; but he came no nearer what is now Vernon county, than did Nicolet, in 1634. In 1673, Louis Joliet, accompanied by a missionary, James Marquette and five other Frenchmen, ascended the Fox river to the portage, now Portage, Columbia Co., Wis.; crossed over to the Wisconsin river and dropped down that river to its mouth. Thence, Joliet journeyed down the Mississippi; so, of course, no part of the present Vernon county was seen by him.

EXPEDITION OF MICHAEL ACCAU.

In 1680 La Salle, who was then on the Illinois river, was desirous to have the Mississippi explored above the point where it was first seen by Joliet; that is, above the mouth of the Wisconsin river; so he dispatched one Michael Accau, on an expedition thither; with him went Antoine Auguel and the Rev. Louis Hennepin, a recollet friar. The party proceeded down the Illinois river in April and up the Mississippi river. They were the first white men who ever saw any portion of what is, at this time, Vernon county, or who set foot upon its territory. This was in May, 1680.

The description of the voyage along what is now the western boundary of Wisconsin (including, of course, Vernon county) is interesting, as given by Hennepin:

"On the eastern side (of the Mississippi) you meet first an inconsiderable river (Rock river) and then further on another, called by the Indians Ouisconsin (Wisconsin) which comes from the east and east-northeast. * * * It is almost as broad as the river Seignelay, or Islinois (Illinois river), and empties into the river Colbert (Mississippi), 100 leagues above the river Seignelay.

"Twenty-four leagues above (the Wisconsin river), you come to the Black river, called by the Nadouessious, or Issate (the modern Sioux) Chabadeba, or Chabaoudeba; it seems inconsiderable. Thirty leagues higher up, you find the lake of Tears (Lake Pepin), which we so named, because the Indians who had taken us, wishing to kill us, some of them wept the whole night to induce the others to consent to our death. This lake which is formed by the river Colbert is seven leagues long and about four wide; there is no considerable current in the middle that we could perceive, but only at its entrance and exit. Half a league below the lake of Tears, on the south side, is Buffalo river (the Chippewa), full of turtles. It is so called by the Indians on account of the numbers of buffalo found there. We followed it for ten or twelve leagues; it empties with rapidity into the river Colbert, but as you ascend it, it is always gentle and free from rapids. It is skirted by mountains, far enough off in some places to form prairies. The mouth

is wooded on both sides, and is full as wide as the Seignelay.

"Forty leagues above is a river (St. Croix) full of rapids, by which, striking northwest, you can proceed to Lake Conde (Lake Superior) as far as Minissakouat river (the St. Louis), which empties into that lake. The first river (St. Croix) is called Tomb river, because the Issati left there the body of one of their warriors, killed by a rattle snake, on whom according to their custom, I put a blanket. This act of humanity gained me much importance by the gratitude displayed by the men of the deceased's tribe, in a great banquet which they gave me in their country, and to which more than 100 Indians were invited."

EXPEDITION OF DULUTH.

The next expedition independent of that of Accau, and *down* the Mississippi from the St. Croix to the Wisconsin river, and, therefore, along the western border of what is now Vernon county, was that of Daniel Greysolon Du Lhut, generally known as Duluth. He and some companions, in 1680, made the journey across from Lake Superior to the Mississippi, by way of Bois Brule river and the St. Croix. Upon reaching the Mississippi, he learned the fact that some Frenchmen had passed up and had been robbed and carried off by the Sioux. This was Accau and his party. These, however, he finally induced the Indians to liberate, and the whole party floated down the river to the mouth of the Wisconsin, returning by that stream to Mackinaw.

THE MISSISSIPPI VISITED BY LE SUEUR.

Le Sueur, a Frenchman, passed up the Mississippi from the mouth of the Wisconsin in 1683; but of this voyage we have no account, only that he was on his way to the Sioux country.

PERROT'S VOYAGE TO THE WEST.

Nicholas Perrot was the next to ascend the Mississippi; and his was the fourth expedition that had floated along the western border of what is now Vernon county. This was in 1684. Perrot had been appointed by the governor of Canada to command in the west, leaving Montreal with twenty men. His object was the establishing of a post on the Mississippi. He proceeded from the St. Lawrence to Green bay, and up the Fox river to the portage; thence down the Wisconsin and up the Mississippi to Lake Pepin, on the east side of which, near its mouth, he erected a stockade.

The next year he prevented with a good deal of difficulty the capture of his post by the Fox Indians and their allies. He passed the winter of 1685–6 in his stockade, and then returned to Green bay by the same route traveled by him when going out. In 1688 he again ascended the Mississippi from the mouth of the Wisconsin to the mouth of the St. Peters, and returned by the same route to Green bay. This ended the explorations of Perrot in the valley of the Mississippi.

LE SUEUR AGAIN ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

In the year 1700 the fifth explorer ascended the Mississippi. His name was Le Sueur, the same who had seventeen years before been among the Sioux. From the 1st of September until the 5th he advanced but fourteen leagues. It is probable he landed several times in what is now Vernon county. Le Sueur was the last to ascend the Mississippi until 1727, when Sieur LaPerriere attempted a renewal of the fur trade which the governor of Canada had resolved to abandon west of Mackinaw, some time previous.

LA PERRIERE BUILDS A FORT ON LAKE PEPIN.

"Fort Beauharnais," on Lake Pepin, was erected by LaPerriere, but it was not long occupied as a military post. The same year, a Jesuit missionary, Louis Ignatius Guignas, attempted to found a mission among the Sioux on the upper Mississippi, passing up the river for that purpose to Fort Beauharnais, but it proved a failure. He was on the Mississippi again in 1736, and at Lake Pepin, with M. de St. Pierre, but of his latter voyage little is known. From this time until the war of 1755–60, between France and Great Britain, French

traders at intervals passed up the Mississsippi; but during that conflict the river was totally abandoned by Frenchmen.

THE JOURNEY OF JONATHAN CARVER.

The first to ascend the river after Great Britain had assumed control of the country, was Jonathan Carver. In 1766 he reached the mouth of the Wisconsin, just above which he found an Indian village called La Prairies les Chiens by the French, the site of the present village of Prairie du Chien, in Crawford Co., Wis. It was inhabited by the Fox Indians. He says the name meant Dog Plains.

"It ('Prairies les Chiens') is a large town and contains about 300 families; the houses are well built after the Indian manner, and pleasantly situated on a very rich soil, from which they raise every necessary of life in great abundance. I saw here many horses of a good size and shape. This town is the great mart where all the adjacent tribes, and even those who inhabit the most remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders. But it is not always that they conclude their sale here; this is determined by a general council of the chiefs, who consult whether it would be more conducive to their interest to sell their goods at this place, or carry them on to Louisiana or Mitchillimackinac. According to the decision of this council they either proceed further, or return to their different homes.

"The Mississippi, at the entrance of the Wisconsin, near which stands a mountain of considerable height, is about half a mile over; but opposite to the last mentioned town it appears to be more than a mile wide, and full of islands, the soil of which is extraordinarily rich, and but thinly wooded.

"A little further to the west, on the contrary side, a small river flows into the Mississippi, which the French call Le Jaun riviere, or the Yellow river. I then bought a canoe, and with two servants, one a French Canadian and the other a Mohawk of Canada, on the 19th proceeded up the Mississippi." * * *

About sixty miles below this lake is a mountain remarkably situated; for it stands by itself exactly in the middle of the river, and looks as if it had slidden from the adjacent shore into the stream. It cannot be termed an island, as it rises immediately from the brink of the water to a considerable height. Both the Indians and the French call it the mountain in the river."

"One day, having landed on the shore of the Mississippi, some miles below Lake Pepin, whilst my attendants were preparing my dinner, I walked out to take a view of the adjacent country. I had not proceeded far before I came to a fine, level, open plain, on which I perceived at a little distance a partial elevation that had the appearance of an intrenchment. On a nearer inspection I had greater reason to suppose that it had really been intended for this many centuries ago. Notwithstanding it was now covered with grass, I could plainly discern that it had once been a breast work of about four feet in height, extending the best part of a mile, and sufficiently capacious to cover 5,000 men. Its form was somewhat circular, and its flanks reached to the river. Though much defaced by time, every angle was distinguishable, and appeared as regular, and fashioned with as much military skill, as if planned by Vauban himself. The ditch was not visible, but I thought on examining more curiously, that I could perceive there certainly had been one. From this situation also, I am convinced that it must have been for this purpose. It fronted the country, and the rear was covered by the river; nor was there any rising ground for a considerable way that commanded it; a few straggling oaks were alone to be seen near it. In many places small tracks were across it by the feet of the elk and deer, and from the depth of the bed of earth by which it was covered, I was able to draw certain conclusions of its great antiquity. I examined all the

angles and every part with great attention, and have often blamed myself since for not encamping on the spot, and drawing an exact plan of it. To show that this description is not the offspring of a heated imagination, or the chimerical tale of a mistaken traveler, I find on inquiry since my return, that Mons St. Pierre, and several traders, have, at different times, taken notice of similar appearances, on which they have formed the same conjectures, but without examining them so minutely as I did. How a work of this kind could exist in a country that has hitherto (according to the general received opinion) been the seat of war to untutored Indians alone, whose whole stock of military knowledge has only, till within two centuries, amounted to drawing the bow, and whose only breast work even at present is the thicket, I know not. I have given as exact an account as possible of this singular appearance, and leave to future explorers of these distant regions to discover whether it is a production of nature or art. Perhaps the hints I have here given might lead to a more perfect investigation of it, and give us very different ideas of the ancient state of realms that we at present believe to have been from the earliest periods only in the habitations of savages.

"The Mississippi below this lake flows with a gentle current, but the breadth of it very uncertain, in some places being upward of a mile, in others not more than a quarter. This river has a range of mountains on each side throughout the whole of the way, which in particular parts approach near to it, in others lie at a greater distance. The land betwixt the mountains, and on their sides, is generally covered with grass, with a few groves of trees interspersed, near which large droves of deer and elk are frequently seen feeding. In many places pyramids of rocks appeared, resembling old ruinous towers; at others amazing precipices, and what is very remarkable, whilst this scene presented itself on one side, the opposite side of the same mountain was covered with the finest herbage, which gradually ascended to its summit. From thence the most beautiful and extensive prospect that imagination can form opens to your view. Verdant plains, fruitful meadows, numerous islands, and all these abounding with a variety of trees that yield amazing quantities of fruit, without care or cultivation, such as the nut-tree, the maple which produces sugar, vines loaded with rich grapes, and plum trees bending under their blooming burdens; but above all, the fine river flowing gently beneath, and reaching as far as the eye can extend, by turns attract your attention and excite your wonder."

It was nearly forty years subsequent to Carver's visit before the Mississippi was ascended by any one who left a record of his journey. In 1805 Major Z. M. Pike made a reconnoisance up the river. We give his description of what he saw as he passed from a point just below the mouth of the Wisconsin up to "a prairie called La Cross:"

"September 4th, 1805, Wednesday.—Breakfasted just below the mouth of the Wisconsin. Arrived at the Prairie Les Chiens about 11 o'clock; took quarters at Capt. Fisher's, and were politely received by him and Mr. Frazer.

"September 5th, Thursday.—Embarked about half past 10 o'clock in a Schenectady boat, to go to the mouth of the Wisconsin, in order to take the latitude, and look at the situation of the adjacent hills for a post. Was accompanied by Judge Fisher, Mr. Frazer and Mr. Woods. We ascended the hill on the west side of the Mississippi, and made a choice of a spot which I thought most eligible, being level on the top, having a spring in the rear, and commanding a view of the country around. A shower of rain came on which wet us, and we returned to the village without having ascended the Wisconsin as we intended. Marked four trees with A, B, C, D, and squared the sides of one in the center. Wrote to the General.

"September 6th, Friday.—Had a small council with the Puants and Winnebagoes; and a chief

of the lower band of the Sioux. Visited and laid out a position for a post, on a hill called Petit Gris, on the Wisconsin, three miles above its mouth. Mr. Fisher accompanied me; was taken very sick, in consequence of drinking some water out of the Wisconsin. The Puants never have any white interpreters, nor have the Fols Avoin (Menomonee) Nation. In my council I spoke to a Frenchman, he to a Sioux, who interpreted to some of the Puants.

"September 7th, Saturday.—My men beat all the villagers hopping and jumping. Began to load my new boats.

"September 8th., Sunday.—Embarked at half past 11 o'clock in two batteaux. The wind fair and fresh. I found myself very much embarrassed and cramped, in my new boats, with provision and baggage. I embarked two interpreters, one to perform the whole voyage, whose name was Pierre Rosseau, and the other named Joseph Reinulle, paid by Mr. Frazer to accompany me as high as the Falls of St. Anthony. Mr. Frazer is a young gentleman, clerk to Mr. Blakely, of Montreal; he was born in Vermont, but has latterly resided in Canada. To the attention of this gentleman I am much indebted; he procured for me everything in his power that I stood in need of; dispatched his bark canoes and remained himself to go on with me. His design was to winter with some of the Sioux bands. We sailed well, came eighteen miles and encamped on the west bank. I must not omit here to bear testimony to the politeness of all the principal inhabitants of the village. There is, however, a material distinction to be made in the nature of those attentions. The kindness of Messrs. Fisher, Frazer and Woods (all Americans), seemed to be the spontaneous effusions of good will, and partiality to their countrymen; it extended to the accomodation, convenience, exercises and pastimes of my men; and whenever they proved superior to the French openly showed their pleasure. But the French Canadians appeared attentive, rather from their natural good manners, the sincere friendship; however, it produced from them the same effect that natural good-will did in others.

"September 9th, Monday.—Embarked early. Dined at Cape Garlic, or at Garlic river, after which we came on to an island on the east side about five miles below the river Iowa, and encamped. Rained before sunset. Distance twenty-eight miles.

"September 10th, Tuesday.—Rain still continuing, we remained at our camp. Having shot at some pigeons, the report was heard at the Sioux lodges; when La Yieulle sent down six of his young men to inform me that he had waited three days with meat, etc., but last night they had began to drink, and, that on the next day he would receive me with his people sober. I returned him for answer, that the season was advanced, that time was pressing, and that if the rain ceased, I must go on. Mr. Frazer and the interpreter went home with the Indians. We embarked about 1 o'clock. Frazer returning, informed me that the chief acquiesed in my reasons for pressing forward, but that he had prepared a pipe (by way of letter) to present me, to show to all the Sioux above, with a message to inform them that I was a chief of their new fathers, and that he wished me to be treated with friendship and respect. * * * We embarked about half past 3 o'clock, came three miles and encamped on the west side. Mr. Frazer we left behind, but he came up with his two peroques about dusk. It commenced raining very hard. In the night a peroque arrived from the lodges at his camp. During our stay at their camp, there were soldiers appointed to keep the crowd from my boats. At my departure their soldiers said: As I had shaken hands with their chief, they must shake hands with my soldiers. In which request I willingly indulged them.

"September 11th, Wednesday. Embarked at 7 o'clock, although raining. Mr. Frazer's

canoes also came on until 9 o'clock. Stopped for breakfast, and made a fire. Mr. Frazer staid with me, and finding his peroques not quite able to keep up, he dispatched them. We embarked; came on until near 6 o'clock, and encamped on the west side. Saw nothing of his peroques, after they left us. Supposed to have come sixteen miles this day. Rain and cold winds, all day ahead. The river has never been clear of islands since I left Prairie Les Chien. I absolutely believe it, here, to be two miles wide. Hills, or rather prairie knobs, on both sides.

"September 12th, Thursday. It raining very hard in the morning, we did not embark until 10 o'clock. Mr. Frazer's peroques then coming up. It was still raining, and was very cold. Passed the Racine river, also a prairie called La Cross, from a game of ball played frequently on it by the Sioux Indians. This prairie is very handsome, it has a small square hill, similar to some mentioned by Carver. It is bounded in the rear, by hills similar to the Prairie Les Chien. On this prairie Mr. Frazer showed me some holes, dug by the Sioux, when in expectation of an attack into which they first put their women and children, and then crawl themselves. They were generally round, and about ten feet in diameter; but some were half moons and quite a breastwork. This I understood was the chief work, which was the principle redoubt. Their modes of constructing are, the moment they apprehend, or discover, an enemy on a prairie, they commence digging with their knives, tomahawks and a wooden ladle; and in an incredibly short space of time, they have a hole sufficiently deep to cover themselves and their family, from the balls or arrows of the enemy. They have no idea of taking those subterraneous redoubts by storm; as they would probably lose a great number of men in the attack; and although they might be successful in the event, it would be considered a very imprudent action. Mr. Frazer finding his canoes not able to keep up, staid at this prairie to organize one of them, intending then, to overtake us."

[OBSERVATIONS BY MAJ. PIKE.]

"The village of the Prairie Les Chiens is situated about one league above the mouth of the Wisconsin river. * * * * The prairie on which the village is situated is bounded in the rear by high bald hills. It is from one mile to three-quarters of a mile from the river, and extends about eight miles from the Mississippi, to where it strikes the Wisconsin at the Petit Grey, which bears from the village southeast by east. * * * From the village to Lake Pepin, we have, on the west shore, first Yellow river, of about twenty yards wide, bearing from the Mississippi nearly due west. Second the Iowa river, about 100 yards wide, bearing from the Mississippi about northwest. Third, the Racine river, about twenty yards wide, bearing from the Mississippi nearly west, and navigable for canoes sixty miles. Fourth, the rivers Embarra and L'Eau Claire, which joins their waters just as they form a confluence with the Mississippi, and are about sixty yards wide, and bear nearly southwest.

"On the east shore, in the same distance, is the river de la Prairie la Cross, which empties into the Mississippi, at the head of the prairie of that name. It is about twenty yards wide, and bears north north-west.

"We then meet with the Black river. * * * * In this division of the Mississippi the shores are more than three-fourths prairie on both sides, or, more properly speaking, bald hills, which, instead of running parallel with the river, form a continual succession of high perpendicular cliffs and low valleys; they appear to head on the river, and to transverse the country in an angular direction. Those hills and valleys give rise to some of the most sublime and romantic views I ever saw. But this irregular scenery is sometimes interrupted by a wide extended plain, which brings to mind the

verdant lawn of civilized life, and would almost induce the traveler to imagine himself in the center of a highly cultivated plantation. The timber of this division is generally birch, elm and cottonwood, all the cliffs being bordered by cedar."

After the expedition of Maj. Pike, voyages up the river soon became common and the published naratives of them are numerous; but nothing is elicited in such as have been examined that is of particular importance not elsewhere given in this history.

CHAPTER V.

THE WINNEBAGO WAR.

During the winter of 1825–6, there were confined in the guard house of Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien, because of some alleged dishonest act, two Winnebago Indians. In October, 1826, the fort was abandoned and the garrison removed to Fort Snelling. The commandant took with him the two Winnebagoes. During the spring of 1827, the reports about the two Indians, around Prairie du Chien, was to the effect that they had been killed. It was soon apparent that a spirit of enmity between the tribe and the settlers in southwestern Wisconsin was effectually stirred up. In addition to this, were the daily encroachments of miners in the lead region; for these miners had, by this time, overrun the mining country from Galena to the Wisconsin river. Finally the difficulties led to an open rupture.

MURDER OF GAGNIER AND LIPCAP.

On the 28th of June, 1827, two Winnebago Indians, Red Bird and We-Kaw and three of their companions, entered the house of Rigeste Gagnier, about two miles from Prairie du Chien, where they remained several hours. At last, when Mr. Gagnier least expected it, Red Bird leveled his gun and shot him dead on his hearthstone. A person in the building by the name of Lipcap, who was a hired man, was slain at the same time by We-Kaw. Madame Gagnier turned to fly with her infant of eighteen months. As she was about to leap through the window, the child was torn from her arms by We-Kaw, stabbed, scalped and thrown violently on the floor as dead. The murderer then attacked the woman, but gave way when she snatched up a gun that was leaning against the wall, and presented it to his breast. She then effected her escape. Her eldest son, a lad of ten years, also shunned the murderers, and they both arrived in the village at the same time. The alarm was soon given; but, when the avengers of blood arrived at Gagnier's house, they found in it nothing living but his mangled infant. It was carried to the village, and, incredible as it may seem, it recovered.

A WINNEBAGO DEBAUCH.

Red Bird and his companions immediately proceeded from the scene of their crime to the rendezvous of their band. During their absence, thirty-seven of the warriors who acknowledged the authority of Red Bird, had assembled with their wives and children, near the mouth of the Bad Ax river in what is now Vernon county. They received the murderers with joy and loud approbations of their exploit. A keg of liquor which they had secured was set abroach, and the Indians began to drink and as their spirits rose, to boast of what they had already done and intended to do. They continued their revel for two days, but on the third the

source of their excitement gave out—their liquor was gone. They were, at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, dissipating the last fumes of their excitement in the scalp-dance, when they descried one of the keel-boats, which had a few days before passed up the river with provisions for the troops at Fort Snelling, on her return, in charge of Mr. Lindsay. Forthwith, a proposal to take her and massacre the crew was made and carried by acclamation. They counted on doing this without risk, for they had examined her on her way up and supposed there were no arms on board. But in this they were mistaken as the sequel shows.

FIRST BATTLE OF BAD AX.

There were indications of hostilities on the part of the Sioux on the upper Mississippi, and the boats when they left Fort Snelling had been supplied with arms. In descending the river they expected an attack at Wabashaw, where the Sioux were dancing the war dance, and hailed their approach with insults and menaces, but did not offer to attack the boats, or obstruct their passage. The whites now supposed the danger over, and, a strong wind at that moment beginning to blow up stream, the boats parted company. So strong was the wind that all the force of the sweeps could scarcely stem it; and by the time the foremost boat was near the encampment, at the mouth of the Bad Ax, the crew were very willing to stop and rest. One or two Frenchmen, or half-breeds, who were on board observed hostile appearances on shore, and advised the rest to keep the middle of the stream with the boat, but their counsel was disregarded. They urged the boat directly toward the camp with all the force of the sweeps. There were sixteen men on deck.

The men were rallying their French companions on their apprehensions, as the boat approached the shore; but when within thirty yards of the bank, suddenly the trees and rocks rang with the blood-chilling, ear-piercing tones of the war-whoop, and a volley of rifle balls rained upon the deck. Happily, the Winnebagoes had not yet recovered from the effects of their debauch, and their arms were not steady. One man only fell. He was a little negro named Peter. His leg was dreadfully shattered, and he afterward died of the wound. A second volley soon came from the shore; but, as the men were lying at the bottom of the boat, they all escaped but one, who was shot through the heart. Encouraged by the non-resistance, the Winnebagoes rushed to their canoes with intent to board. The boatmen having recovered from their first panic, seized their guns and the savages were received with a severe discharge. In one canoe two savages were killed with the same bullet and several wounded. The attack was continued until night, when one of the party named Mandeville, who had assumed command, sprang into the water, followed by four others, who succeeded in setting the boat afloat, and then went down the stream.

Thirty-seven Indians were engaged in this attack, which may be called the first "Battle of Bad Ax;" the second being fought just below this point, five years after, between the Americans and Indians of another tribe, of which an account will be given in the next chapter. Of the Winnebagoes seven were killed and fourteen wounded. They managed to put 693 shots into and through the boat. Two of the crew were killed outright, and four wounded—two mortally. The presence of mind of Mandeville undoubtedly saved the rest, as well as the boat. Mr. Lindsay's boat, the rear one, did not reach the mouth of the Bad Ax until midnight. The Indians opened fire upon her, which was promptly returned. Owing to the darkness no injury was done to the boat, and she passed safely on. Considering the few that were engaged in the attack on the first boat and in its defense, the contest was indeed a spirited and sanguinary one.

GREAT ALARM UPON THE BORDER.

Great was the alarm at Prairie du Chien when the boats arrived there. The people left

their houses and farms and crowded into the dilapidated fort. An express was immediately sent to Galena, and another to Fort Snelling, for assistance. A company of upwards of a hundred volunteers soon arrived from Galena, and the minds of the inhabitants were quieted. In a few days four imperfect companies arrived from Fort Snelling. The consternation of the people of the lead mines was great, and in all the frontier settlements. This portion of the country then contained, as is supposed, about 5,000 inhabitants—that is south of the Wisconsin river and at Prairie du Chien, and extending into Illinois. A great many of these fled from their homes.

ARRIVAL OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

On the 1st of September, 1827, Maj. William Whistler, with government troops arrived at the portage (now Portage, Columbia Co., Wis.), and while there an express arrived from Gen. H. Atkinson, announcing his approach, and directing him to halt and fortify himself and wait his arrival. The object of the joint expedition of Gen. Atkinson from Jefferson Barracks below St. Louis, and of Maj. Whistler from Fort Howard, at Green Bay, was to capture those who had committed the murders at Prairie du Chien, and put a stop to any further aggression. And this march of the two into the Winnebago country from opposite directions was well calculated to over-awe the disaffected among the Winnebagoes. These Indians were soon advised that the security of their people lay in the surrender of the murderers of the Gagnier family. Accordingly, Red Bird and We-Kaw were surrendered up to Maj. Whistler, at the portage and the Winnebago war was ended. The two Indians were taken to Prairie du Chien for safe-keeping, to await their trial in the regular courts of justice for murder.

TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF THE MURDERERS.

The next spring (1828), Red Bird, We-Kaw and another Winnebago prisoner were tried at Prairie du Chien, before Judge James Duane Doty, who went from Green Bay there for that purpose. They were found guilty and sentenced to death. Red Bird died in prison. A deputation of the tribe went to Washington to solicit from the President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, a pardon for the others. President Adams granted it on the implied condition that the tribe would cede the lands then the possession of the miners, in the lead region, to the general government. The Winnebagoes agreed to this. Madame Gagnier was compensated for the loss of her husband and the mutilation of her infant. At the treaty with the Winnebagoes held at Prairie du Chien, in 1829, provision was made for two sections of land to her and her two children. The United States agreed to pay her the sum of $50 per annum for fifteen years to be deducted from the annuity of the Winnebagoes.

DEKAURAY'S IMPRISONMENT.

In closing this account of the "Winnebago War" we give an anecdote, which places the Winnebago character in an amiable light. The militia of Prairie du Chien, immediately after the affair of the boats at the mouth of the Bad Ax river, seized an old Winnebago chief named Dekauray and four other Indians. The chief was informed that if Red Bird was not given up within a certain time he and the others were to die in his place. This Dekauray steadfastly believed. A messenger, a young Indian, was sent to inform the tribe of the state of affairs, and several days had elapsed and no information was received of the murderers. The dreadful day was near at hand, and Dekauray being in bad health, asked permission of the officer to go to the river and indulge in his long-accustomed habit of bathing in order to improve his physical condition, upon which Col. Snelling told him if he would promise on the honor of a chief that he would not leave town, he might have his liberty and enjoy all his priviliges until the day appointed for his execution. Accordingly, he first gave his hand to the colonel, thanking him for his friendly offer, then raised both hands aloft, and, in the most solemn adju-

ration, promised that he would not leave the bounds prescribed, and said if he had a hundred lives, he would sooner lose them all than forfeit his word. He was then set at liberty. He was advised to flee to the wilderness and make his escape. "Do you think," said he, "I prize life above honor?" He then complacently remained until nine days of the ten which he had to live had passed, and still nothing was heard of the murderers or of their being apprehended. No alteration could be seen in the countenance of the chief. It so happened that on that day Gen. Atkinson arrived with his troops from Jefferson Barracks, and the order for the execution was countermanded and the Indians permitted to return to their homes.

CHAPTER VI.

THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

To the people of Vernon county the brief contest between a portion of the Sac and Fox Indians and the Americans, in 1832, known from the name of the leader of the savages as the Black Hawk War, promises more than usual interest, for the reason that, within the limits of the county, as at present constituted, occurred one of the principal incidents of the war. In the outline history of Wisconsin, previously given, a brief sketch of the hostile movements of both parties engaged in the work of death, will be found; but, at this point, it is proposed to enter more into detail, especially to relate somewhat copiously, what transpired after the belligerents entered the bounds of this county.

Black Hawk's return from the west side of the Mississippi, and his moving up Rock river, caused the mustering into the service of the United States, in Illinois, of about 800 volunteers, who were sent in pursuit. Gen. H. Atkinson, brevet brigadier general in the United States Army, followed the militia with his regulars, but at too great a distance to afford support. On the 12th of May the volunteers reached Dixon's ferry, where they were joined by 275 men from the northern counties of the State. The latter force, however, were immediately sent out on scouting duty. But the two battalions still moved along together until Stillman's run was reached; the creek then being known as Kishwaukee, about thirty miles above the ferry.

BATTLE OF STILLMAN'S RUN.

Black Hawk now made advances for peace, but two of his messengers being killed, the negotiations were broken off. That chief at this time had but forty men under his immediate command, most of his party being some ten miles away; nevertheless, with his handful of warriors, he started back to meet his pursuers. Raising the war whoop, he rushed in upon the volunteers, and scattered them in every direction. The fugitives, in their flight, did not stop until the ferry was reached. This was afterward known as "the battle of Stillman's Run," of May 14, 1832. The governor of Illinois issued a proclamation immediately after, calling for an additional force of 2,000 mounted volunteers. These incidents caused throughout the west the greatest alarm. The loss of the Indians in this, the first "battle" of the "war," was none. Of the volunteers, one major, one captain and nine of the rank and file, were killed, and five men wounded.

On the 17th of May, Gen Atkinson reached Dixon's ferry with his regulars and a supply of

provisions; and on the 19th, with 2,400 men, advanced up Rock river. On the 27th and 28th of the month, the volunteers were disbanded by the governor, leaving the defense of the frontiers in the hands of the regular troops and a few citizens who had volunteered temporarily. Meanwhile, the savages were waging war in earnest against the exposed settlements. Their war parties were scattered from Chicago to Galena; from the Rock river to the lead mines. It was a warfare in regular Indian style; there was success first on one side, then on the other; until on the 24th of June, Black Hawk made an unsuccessful attack on Apple River Fort, near the present village of Elizabeth, Ill. Meanwhile the volunteers called out by the governor of Illinois were assembling and ordered to rendezvous at Dixon's ferry, where they were mustered into the service of the United States and formed into three brigades. The contest now began to assume somewhat the appearance of regular war. But, before we proceed to narrate the aggressive movements of the Americans up the Rock river valley in pursuit of Black Hawk and his band, it is proper to more particularly describe the incidents which occurred in various localities where the savages carried on their depredations previously.

In the night of the 17th of June a volunteer company encamped near Burr Oak Grove, thirty-five miles east of Galena, was fired on by the enemy. The next morning he started in pursuit of the savages, and succeeded in killing all of them—four in number—with the loss on his part of only one man. However, later in the day he was attacked by the Indians in considerable force, losing two killed and one wounded; but he beat off the assailants and killed their leader.

BATTLE OF PECATONICA.

On the 14th of June a party of men were attacked in a cornfield near the mouth of Spofford's creek, and five killed. Two days after Col. Henry Dodge, with twenty-eight men, struck the trail of the savages, overtaking them on the bank of the Pecatonica in what is now Lafayette Co., Wis. The savages numbered seventeen, and all were killed. Dodge's loss was three killed. This was, all things considered, the most spirited and effective fighting done during "the war." Capt. James W. Stephenson, at the head of the Galena volunteers, being on the lookout for Indians near the head of Yellow creek, lost three of his men, and was obliged to retreat. This ended what may be called the irregular fighting of the campaign. We now return to Rock river, up the valley of which Black Hawk and his force had moved and the Americans just commencing pursuit.

THE PURSUIT OF BLACK HAWK.

A battalion of spies was the first body ordered forward. They reached Kellogg's grove, and were informed on the morning of the 25th of June that a heavy trail was to be seen of the enemy not far away. Twenty-five men went out to reconnoiter, and were defeated, leaving five killed and three wounded, though the enemy's loss is said to have been nine killed. The enemy now retired up the river in the direction of Lake Koshkonong, in Wisconsin; and the fighting in Illinois was ended. The first halt made by Black Hawk was at what was afterward known as "Black Hawk Grove," just outside of the present city of Janesville, Rock Co., Wis., where his forces remained some time in camp. It must not be understood that they were now at their former homes. This was not the case. It was not then the country claimed by the Sacs, but by the Rock River Winnebagoes.

Gen. Atkinson having arrived at the mouth of the Pecatonica, in pursuit of the savages, and hearing that the Sac chief was further up Rock river, determined to follow him, with the intention of deciding the campaign by a general battle if possible. Black Hawk, judging of his intentions from the report of his spies, broke up his camp and retreated still further up the river, to the foot of Lake Koshkonong, where

on the west side of the river, in what is now the town of Milton, he again formed a camp. Here he remained some time, when he again moved, this time to an island in the lake, still known as Black Hawk's Island. It is in the southeast corner of the town of Sumner, in Jefferson Co., Wis. Black Hawk afterward made his way still further up the valley of Rock river.

But now let us return to the army under Gen. Atkinson, in its march from the mouth of the Pecatonica to Lake Koshkonong, where he found the Sac chief had eluded him. The recital is best given in the words of one who was in the army at the time and marched under Atkinson:

"The 30th of June, 1832, we passed through the Turtle village [now the city of Beloit, Rock Co., Wis.,] which is a considerable Winnebago town, but it was deserted. We marched on about a mile and encamped on the open prairie near enough to Rock river to get water from it. We here saw very fresh signs of the Sac Indians, where they had apparently been fishing on that day. Gen. Atkinson believed we were close to them and apprehended an attack that night. The sentinels fired several times, and we were as often paraded and prepared to receive the enemy, but they never came, though from the accounts given by the sentinels to the officers of the day, there was no doubt that Indians had been prowling about the camp."

"July 1.—We had not marched but two or three miles before an Indian was seen across Rock river at some distance off, on a very high prairie, which, no doubt was a spy, and likely was one that had been prowling about our encampment the night before. We proceeded a few miles further, and came to the place where the Indians, who had taken the two Misses Hall prisoners, had staid for several days (near the site of the present city of Janesville). It was a strong position where they could have with stood a very powerful force. We afterward discovered they always encamped in such places. We had not marched but a few miles from this place before one of our front scouts came back meeting the army in great haste, and stated that they had discovered a fresh trail of Indians, where they had just gone along in front of us. Maj. Ewing, who was in front of the main army some distance, immediately formed his men in line of battle, and marched in that order in advance of the main army, about three-quarters of a mile. We had a very thick wood to march through, where the undergrowth stood very high and thick; the signs looked very fresh, and we expected every step to be fired upon from the thickets. We marched in this order about two miles, not stopping for the unevenness of the ground or anything else, but keeping in line of battle all the time, until we found the Indians had scattered; then we resumed our common line of march, whic was in three divisions. Soon after we had formed into three divisions, the friendly Indians that were with us raised an alarm, by seven or eight of them shooting at a deer, some little in advance of the army. The whole army here formed for action; but it was soon ascertained that these children of the forest had been at what their whole race seems to have been born for, shooting at the beasts of the woods.

"We here encamped by a small lake (Storr's) this night, and had to drink the water, which was very bad, but it was all that could be found. Here a very bad accident happened. One of the sentinels, mistaking another that was on post, with a blanket wrapped around him, for an Indian, shot him just below the groin, in the thick of the thigh. At first the wound was thought mortal. I understood before I left the army, that the man was nearly well. Here Gen. Atkinson had, on this night, breastworks thrown up, which was easily done, as we were encamped in thick, heavy timber. This was a precaution which went to show that he set a great deal by the lives of his men, and by no means was any mark of cowardice; for

generalship consists more in good management than anything else.

"July 2.—We started this morning at the usual time, but went only a few miles before Maj. Ewing, who was still in front with his battalion (of scouts), espied a very fresh trail, making off at about a left angle. He dispatched ten men from the battalion, in company with Capt. George Walker and a few Indians, to pursue it and see, if possible, where it went to. He moved on in front of his battalion a short distance further, when he came to the main Sac trail of Black Hawk's whole army, which appeared to be about two days old.

Capt. Early, who commanded a volunteer independent company, and had got in advance this morning, called a halt; so did Maj. Ewing with his battalion. Then Maj. Ewing sent back one of his staff officers for the main army to call a halt for a few minutes. He, with Maj. Anderson, of the Infantry, Capt. Early and Jonathan H. Pugh, went a little in advance, when Maj Anderson, with a telescope, took a view across the lake; as we had now got to Lake Koshkonong. [The army entered what is now Jefferson county, very nearly where, in going north, its south line is crossed by the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. The trail, after leaving the southeast quarter of section 35, in township 5 north, of range 13 east, ran nearly due north to the southeast corner of section 26, in the same township and range, where the army reached the lake in what is now the town of Koshkonong]. They then discovered three Indians apparently in their canoes.

"Maj. Ewing went himself and informed Gen. Atkinson what discovery was made, and requested Gen. Atkinson to let him take his battalion round through a narrow defile that was between two of those lakes, where we supposed the Indians were. By this time our scouts, who had taken the trail that led off on our left, returned, bringing with them five white men's scalps. They followed the Indian trail until it took them to a large Indian encampment that they had left a few days before. They reached it; the scalps were sticking against some of the wigwams; some of them were identified; but I do not recollect the names of any, except one, which was said to be an old gentlemen by the name of Hall.

"Maj. Ewing then marched his battalion about a mile, where the pass on the side of the lake appeared so narrow that he dismounted his men and had the horses all tied, and a few men left to guard them. The rest of us marched on foot about one mile through a narrow defile on the (east) bank of the Koshkonong Lake. This was considered a dangerous procedure, but Maj. Ewing, who was in front with Maj. Anderson, would have been first in danger. He now found that we were getting too far in advance of our horses; so Maj. Ewing sent a part of the men back for them. When we mounted our horses, we were joined by Capt. Early and his independent corps. We then marched some distance around the (Koshkonong) lake and went in between two of them, in a narrow defile until we found another deserted encampment. We now saw clearly that the Indians were gone from the Koshkonong lake; so, the next thing to be done was to find in which direction they had steered their course.

Gen. Atkinson having been re-enforced by Gen. Alexander, took up his line of march, arriving at the burnt village on the 6th of July. That evening, Gen. Posey's brigade, in company with Col. Dodge's squadron, joined Atkinson. Col. John Ewing and his regiment came within a mile and a half of the main army and encamped. On the 10th, Gen. Atkinson sent Col. Ewing with his regiment down Rock river to Dixon's; Gen. Posey, with the rest of his brigade, was dispatched to Fort Hamilton; while Col. Henry and his brigade, Gen. Alexander's brigade and Col. Dodge's squadron were sent to Fort Winnebago, now Portage,

Columbia Co., Wis., for provisions. Atkinson dropped down a short distance from the burnt village and built a stockade fort, which he called Fort Koshkonong. It was located on the south side of Rock river iL the eastern outskirts of the present village of Fort Atkinson, Jefferson Co., Wis. Alexander returned from Fort Winnebago by the direct route, while Dodge and Henry took a more easterly one, striking Rock river at a point where there was a small Winnebago village, now Hustisford, Dodge Co., which point was reached July 18th. Information was here obtained that Black Hawk was at Cranberry Lake, farther up the river. This was believed to be reliable, and an express was started down the stream at once, to inform Gen. Atkinson of the Sac chief's whereabouts. The express came very unexpectedly, at a distance not more than eight miles from the starting point, upon the trail of Black Hawk, making his way down the river. The express returned to the army with the news, and the next morning, July 19th, the pursuit began.

BLACK HAWK PURSUED TO THE WISCONSIN.

In the march in pursuit of the enemy, the Americans crossed the Crawfish near what is now Aztalan, in Jefferson Co., Wis., and were of course soon in what is now Dane county. But the account of the march is best told by one who participated in the pursuit:

"July 19, 1832.—This day we had for about twelve miles, the worst kind of a road. To look at it appeared impossible to march an army through it. Thickets and swamps of the worst kind we had to go through, but the men had something now to stimulate them. They saw the Sac trail fresh before them, and the prospect of bringing our campaign to an end. There was no murmuring, no excuses made, none getting on the sick report. If we came to a swamp that our horses were not able to carry us through, we dismounted, turned our horses before us and stepped in ourselves, sometimes up to our arm-pits in mud and water. In this way we marched with great celerity. In the evening of this day, it commenced thundering, lightening and raining tremendously. We stopped not, but pushed on. The trail appeared to be still getting fresher and the ground better, which still encouraged us to overcome every difficulty found in the way. It continued raining until dark, and, indeed, until after dark. We now saw the want of our tents, a great number of us having left this necessary article behind in the morning, in order to favor our horses.

"The rain ceased before day, and it turned cold and chilly. In the morning we rose early, at the well-known sound of the bugle, and prepared in a very short time our rude breakfast, dried our clothes a little, and by 7 o'clock (July 20th), were on the march at a quick pace. On this day, some of our scouts took an Indian as a prisoner. On examination, he was found to be a Winnebago. He stated that Black Hawk was but a little distance ahead of us, and that he had seen some of his party not more than two miles ahead. But it was a bad piece of conduct on our part that this Indian was not kept as a prisoner of war, but was set at liberty and let go, no doubt, that he might inform the Sacs of our pursuit.

"We halted and the order of battle was formed, as we expected we would overtake them this evening. The order was as follows: Gen. Dodge and Maj. Ewing were to bring on the battle. Maj. Ewing was placed in the center with his spy battallion, Capt. Gentry and Capt. Clark's companies on our right, and Capt Camp and Capt. Parkinson on our left. Our own battalion (Maj. Ewing's) was reduced to two companies (as Capt. Wells and his company had been left at Fort Dixon); Capt. Lindsey, of our own battallion, was placed on the right and Capt. Huston's company on the left; Col. Fry and his regiment on the right, and Col. Jones, with his regiment, on the left, and Col. Collins in the center. In this order we marched in quick time, with all possible speed, in hope that we would overtake the enemy on that

evening. We were close to the Four Lakes [in what is now Dane Co., Wis.,] and we wished to come up with them before they could reach that place, as it was known to be a stronghold for the Indians; but the day was not long enough to accomplish this desirable object.

"We reached the first of the Four Lakes [now known as Lake Monona, or Third Lake,] about sundown. Gen. Henry here called a halt and consulted with Pouquet [Peter Pauquette], our pilot, as to the country we were approaching. Pouquet, who was well acquainted with this country, told him he could not get through after night; that we had to march close to the margin of the lake for some distance, as the underwood stood so thick one man could not see another ten steps. Gen. Henry concluded to encamp here until the break of day. Gen. Dodge sent Capt. Dixon on ahead with a few men to see if they could make any discovery of the enemy, who returned in a very short time and stated that they had seen the enemy's rear guard about one mile and a half distant. Gen. Henry gave strict orders for every man to tie up his horse, so as to be ready to start as soon as it was daylight. The order was strictly obeyed; and after we took our frugal supper all retired to rest except those who had to mount guard, for we had marched a great way that day, and many were still wet by the rain that fell the preceding night; but being very much fatigued, we were all soon lost in sleep except those on guard.

"July 21, at the break of day, the bugle sounded, and all were soon up and in a few minutes had breakfast ready, and, after taking a little food, we mounted our horses and again commenced the pursuit. We soon found that the pilot had told us no lie, for we found the country that the enemy was leading us into to be worse, if possible, than what he told us. We could turn neither to the right nor left, but were compelled to follow the trail the Indians had made, and that, too, for a great distance at the edge of the water of the lake. We had not marched more than five miles before Dr. Philleo came back, meeting us, with the scalp of an Indian. He had been on ahead with the front scouts, and came on this Indian, who had been left as a rear guard to watch our movements. There were several shots fired at him about the same time, and I suppose all hit him from the number of bullet holes that were in him; but Dr. Philleo had scalped him, so he was called Philleo's Indian, which reminds me of the hunters: 'He who draws the first blood is entitled to the skin, and the remainder to the carcass, if there are several in the chase,' which was the case at this time."

Leaving our journalist for a moment, we will describe the particulars of the march from the time the Catfish creek, or rather the Yahara as it is legally called, was reached until the army left the Fourth lake, the most northerly of the Four lakes, properly called Lake Mendota. In the timber skirting the Yahara, the Americans overtook the rear guard of the flying foe, where an Indian was wounded, who crept away and hid himself in the thick willows where he died. A scouting party of fourteen men was sent forward and preceded the main body about two miles. When they arrived at the point now the site of Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, an Indian was seen coming up from the water's edge, who seated himself upon the bank, apparently indifferent to his fate. In a moment after his body was pierced with bullets, one of which passed in at the temple and out of the back part of his head. On examination, it was found that he was sitting upon a newly made grave, probably that of his wife, who had perhaps died of fatigue, hunger and exhaustion, and her disconsolate companion had resolved to await the advancing foe and die there also. The trail was followed around the southern end of Lake Mendota (or Fourth lake), passing a little north of what is now the Capital Park, and along the lake across the University grounds. A few miles brought them to what appeared an admirable position for a battle field with natural

defenses and places of ambush. It had been chosen by the enemy and here they had lain apparently the previous night. This spot was afterward laid out as the City of Four Lakes. It is about three-fourths of a mile north of the present village of Pheasant Branch, in Dane county. We now return to the journal, from which we broke off to relate these particulars.

"But I am not done with Dr. Philleo yet. I will show you that he is a good soldier, and something of an Indian fighter. The signs now began to get very fresh, and we mended our pace very much. We had not proceeded more than ten or fifteen miles further before our fighting doctor ran afoul of two more Indians; he showed his bravery by assisting to kill them. I suppose he killed one, and Mr. Sample Journey the other, so there was a scalp for each. But one of those miserable wretches sold his life as dear as possible. He, in the act of falling, after he was shot, fired and shot three balls into a gentleman who himself was in the act of shooting at him. The balls were all small; one went through his thigh, one through his leg, and the other through his foot. I am sorry I have forgotten the gentleman's name; he belonged to Gen. Dodge's squadron.

"We now doubled our speed, all were anxious to press forward, and as our horses were nearly worn out, we carried nothing, only what was actually necessary for us to eat; camp kettles and many such articles were thrown away. The trail was now literally, in many places, strewed with Indian trinkets, such as mats, kettles, etc., which plainly told us that they knew we were in pursuit. We, too, saw from the face of the country that we were drawing close to the Wisconsin river, and our object was to overtake them before they reached it; so now we went as fast as our horses were able to carry us. But this was too severe for our poor horses; they began to give out. But even this did not stop a man. Whenever a horse gave out, the rider would dismount, throw off his saddle and bridle and pursue on foot, in a run, without a murmur. I think the number of horses left this day was about forty. The rear guard of the enemy began by this time (about 3 o'clock P. M.) to make feint stands; and as the timber stood thick, we did not know but what the whole army of Black Hawk was forming for action; in consequence of which we got down and formed as often as twice, before we found out that their object was to keep us back until they could gain some strong position to fight from. Our front scouts now determined not to be deceived any more; but the next they came to, they stopped not for their feigned maneuver, but pursued them to the main body of the enemy. They returned to us in great haste and informed Gen. Henry that the Indians were forming for action.

BATTLE OF WISCONSIN HEIGHTS.

"We all dismounted in an instant. The line of battle was then formed in the same order that it had been laid off the preceding day, Gen. Dodge's corps and Maj. Ewing's spy battalion still in front. The horses were left and every fourth man detailed to hold them; which gave seven horses to each man to hold. We had scarcely time to form on foot before the Indians raised the war-whoop, screaming and yelling furiously, and rushed forward meeting us with a heavy charge. Gen. Dodge and Maj. Henry met them also with a heavy charge, which produced a halt on the part of the enemy. Our men then opened a tremendous volley of musketry upon them, and accompanied it with the most terrific yells that ever came from the head of mortals, except from the savages themselves. They could not stand this. They now tried their well known practice of flanking; but here they were headed again by the brave Col. Jones and his regiment, who were on our left, where he met them in the most fearless manner, and opened a heavy fire upon them. Col. Fry was placed on the extreme right. They tried his line, but were soon repulsed. Their strong position was on the left, or near the center, where Cols. Jones, Dodge and Ewing kept up

a constant fire upon them for something like half an hour.

"The enemy here had a strong position. They had taken shelter in some very high grass, where they could lie down and load and be entirely out of sight. After fighting them in this position for at least thirty minutes, during which time Col. Jones had his horse shot from under him, and one of his men killed and several wounded, Cols. Dodge, Ewing and Jones all requested Gen. Henry to let them charge upon them at the point of the bayonet, which Gen. Henry readily assented to, and gave the order 'Charge!' which was obeyed by both men and officers in a most fearless manner. All were intent upon the charge. We had to charge up a rising piece of ground. When we got on the top, we then fired perfectly abreast. They could not stand this. They had to quit their hiding-place, and made good their retreat. When they commenced retreating we killed a great number.

"Their commander, who, it was said, was Napope, was on a white pony on the top of a mountain in the rear of his Indians; he certainly had one of the best voices for command I ever heard. He kept up a constant yell, until his men began to retreat, when he was heard no more. Col. Collins was kept, during the engagement, in the rear as a reserve, and to keep the enemy from flanking and coming in upon us in the rear, which was a very good arrangement of Gen. Henry. It was now nearly sundown and still raining, as it had been all the evening, but so slow that we made shift to keep our guns dry. The enemy retreated toward the river with considerable speed. The ground they were retreating to, appeared to be low and swampy, and on the bank of the river there appeared to be a heavy body of timber, which the enemy could reach before we could bring them to another stand. So Gen. Henry concluded not to pursue them any further that night, but remain on the battle ground until next morning, and then he would not be in danger of losing so many of his men, knowing that in the dark, he would have to lose a number; for the Indians would have the timber to fight from while we would have to stand in the open prairie. [The battle ground was on the east side of the northeast quarter of section 24, in what is now the town of Mazomanie, Dane Co., Wis.]

"Next morning, July 22, the troops were paraded and put in battle order on foot, except Col. Fry's regiment, and took up the line of march to the river, leaving Col. Collins' regiment to guard the horses and baggage, and take care of the wounded. We marched down to the river, which was about one mile and a half off; but, before we reached the banks, we had a very bad swamp to go through, fifty or sixty yards on this side the timber, which stood very high on the bank of the river. We now saw that Gen. Henry had acted very prudently. If he had attempted to follow them the evening before, he would have lost a great many of his men. When we got to the bank, we found they had made their retreat across the river during the night, leaving a great many articles of trumphery behind. We also saw a good deal of blood, where their wounded had bled. We now returned to the camp, seeing there was no chance to follow them this day aross the river.

"We, in this battle (known in history as the Battle of Wisconsin Heights), were very fortunate, indeed. We had only one man killed and eight wounded; and we have learned since the battle that we killed sixty-eight of the enemy (but Black Hawk declared afterward that he lost only six), and wounded a considerable number, twenty-five of whom they report died soon after the battle. We now were nearly out of provisions, and to take up the line of march against them, in the condition our horses were in, told us plainly that we would suffer for something to eat before we could get it. We buried the brave young man, who was killed, with the honors of war. It was stated that he had just shot down an Indian, when he received the mortal wound himself. His name was John

Short, and he belonged to Capt. Briggs' company from Randolph Co., Ill. He had a brother and a brother-in-law in the same company, who witnessed his consignment to the mother earth. The wounded were all well examined and none pronounced mortal. We continued this day on the battle ground and prepared litters for the wounded to be carried on. We spent this day in a more cheerful manner than we had done any other day since we had been on the campaign. We felt a little satisfaction for our toils, and thought we had, no doubt, destroyed a number of the very same monsters that had so lately been imbruing their hands with the blood of our fair sex—the helpless mother and unoffending infant. We dried our clothes, which then had been wet for several days. This day we spent in social chat between men and officers. There were no complaints made; all had fought bravely; each man praised his officers; and all paaised our general. Late in the evening, some of our men, who had been out to see if there were any signs of the enemy remaining near us, returned and stated that they saw smoke across the river."

From this time until the Wisconsin river was crossed there were not many incidents of importance worthy of record; so we leave the journal, from which we have been copying, to relate only such events as will preserve the chain of our narrative until that time. On the 23d of July the army was put in motion, not in pursuit of Black Hawk, but to go to the Blue Mounds for supplies of provisions. And just here we must go back in our relation to the time when the army left the Rock river—July 19. On this day, the same express that had discovered the trail of Black Hawk the day previous, again started for Gen. Atkinson's camp, or Fort Koshkonong, where the general was with his infantry. That officer, as soon as he was informed that Black Hawk's trail was discovered, directed the same express to return at once to Gen. Henry with orders to the latter to pursue on the trail of the Sac chief until he could overtake him, and to defeat or capture him. However, before these orders had reached Gen. Henry, they had been anticipated. Black Hawk had been pursued, overtaken and defeated, but not captured. Gen. Atkinson also notified Gen. Henry that he would start himself with the infantry and Gen. Alexander's brigade; that the rest of the volunteers who were with him would be left to guard the fort; and that he would go by way of Blue Mounds. He also directed Gen. Henry, if he got out of provisions, to go to that place for a supply. This explains why the army, after the battle of Wisconsin Heights, marched for the Blue Mounds. Not only Gen. Henry's command, but also those of Gen. Atkinson, reached the Blue Mounds without any mishap; so, also, a part of Gen. Posey's brigade from Fort Hamilton, who passed on to Helena, in what is now Iowa Co., Wis., where the Wisconsin river was to be crossed by the whole army. By the 26th of June all the commands had reached that place and preparations were made to cross the stream on rafts made for that purpose.

BLACK HAWK PURSUED TO THE MISSISSIPPI.

On the 27th and 28th of July, Gen. Atkinson with his select body of troops, consisting of the regulars under Col. Taylor, 400 in number, part of Henry's, Posey's and Alexander's brigades, and Dodge's battalion of mounted volunteers, amounting in all to 1,300 men, crossed the Wisconsin river and immediately fell upon the trail of the enemy. They were in what is now Sauk Co., Wis. Pursuing this trail first down the river, then to the northward, they finally struck off in a west-northwest direction through what is now Richland county, until the Kickapoo river was reached near the present Soldier's Grove, in what is now Crawford Co., Wis.

Before entering upon the particulars of the march through Vernon county, as given in the journal from which extracts have already been so liberally made, it will be well to glance at the route taken from the Kickapoo to the Miss-

issippi. After the Kickapoo was crossed, Black Hawk, followed closely by Gen. Atkinson, was soon in what is now Vernon county, passing, in a direction north of west, near the farm at present owned by Anson G. Tainter, in the town of Franklin; thence across West Prairie, to the brakes or ravines leading into the head of Battle creek; thence down that creek through sections 2 and 3, in township 11, range 7, in the town of Wheatland, to the point where he was overtaken and compelled to fight the battle known in history as the Battle of Bad Ax. Keeping this general description of the flight of the savages through Vernon county and the pursuit of them by the Americans in view, the following narrative will prove of interest to the reader:

"About 12 o'clock this day (August 1, 1832), we came to a small river called the Kickapoo. We here found that the country was about to change. A short distance before we got to this stream, we came to a beautiful body of pine timber, which was tall and large. As soon as we crossed this stream, we found the mountains were covered with prairie grass. We here found the Indian trail was getting fresher. They had encamped at this creek. We had now been three days in those mountains and our horses had lived on weeds, except those that became debilitated and were left behind; for a great number had become so, and were left to starve in this dreary waste. We here for the first time in three days had an opportunity of turning our horses out to graze. Accordingly we left them graze for about an hour, which they made good use of and during which we took a cold lunch. About 1 o'clock we started, at a faster gait than usual. We found from the face of the country that we were not a great way from the Mississippi. The country was still hilly, but hills of a small size, and almost barren; so we could get along with more speed. It gave the men new spirits. We now saw that our horses would not have to starve, as we had begun to think it probable that they would.

"On this evening, we came across the grave of an Indian chief, who was buried in the grandest style of Indian burials; painted and otherwise decorated as well as those wretched beings were able to do. He was placed on the ground, with his head resting against the root of a tree; logs were placed around him and covered over with bark; and on the top of which, green bushes were laid; so intended that we might pass by without discovering the grave. He was examined and found to have been shot. It was now late in the evening, and we had proceded but a short distance from here, before some of our front spies came across an Indian that had been left behind from some cause or other. The spies interrogated him about Black Hawk and his band. He stated that they would get to the river that day and would cross over on the next morning. The old sinner then plead for quarters; but that being no time to be plagued with the charge of prisoners, they had to leave the unhappy wretch behind, which appeared to be a hard case. But, no doubt, he had been at the massacre of a number of our own citizens, and deserved to die for the crimes which he had perpetrated in taking the lives of harmless and unoffending women and children.

"We this day made a tolerable push, having marched until 8 o'clock at night before we stopped. We then halted and formed our encampment. But it was for a short time only. Gen. Atkinson gave orders for all to confine their horses and be ready to march by two o'clock in pursuit of the enemy. We were now all tired and hungry and something to eat was indispensibly necessary. We had a long way to go after water, and the worst kind of a precipice to go down and up to procure it. All was now a bustle for awhile, to prepare something to sustain nature, and to do it in time to get a little rest before we would have to march. About 9 o'clock the noise began to die away,

so that by 10 o'clock all was lost in sleep but the sentinel who was at his post.

"At the appointed hour (2 o'clock in the morning of August 2) the bugle sounded; all were soon up and made preparations for a march at quickstep; moving on to complete the work of death upon those unfortunate children of the forest. General Atkinson this morning had the army laid off and arranged in the following manner: General Dodge, with his squadron, was placed in front, the Infantry next, the second brigade next, under the command of Gen. Alexander; the first brigade next, under the command of Gen. Posey; the third brigade next, under command of Gen. Henry.

"In this order the march had commenced. We had not proceeded more than four or five miles before there was a herald sent back, informing us that the front spies had come in sight of the enemy's rear guard (in reality their outpost). The intelligence was soon conveyed to Gen. Atkinson, and then to all the commanders of the different brigades. The celerity of the march was then doubled and it was but a short time before the firing of the front spies commenced, about half a mile in front of the main army. The Indians retreated towards the Mississippi, but kept up a retreating fire upon our front spies for some time, until Gen. Dodge, who commanded, began to kill them very fast. The Indians then retreated more rapidly and sought refuge in their main army, which was lying on the bank of the Mississippi (which river they had, in fact, reached the day before)."

BATTLE OF BAD AX.

While Black Hawk and his band and their pursuers were traversing the rugged country across what is now Richland county into Vernon, intelligence was conveyed to Prairie du Chien, by express, of the battle of Wisconsin Heights and of the retreat of the enemy across the Wisconsin river. The commander of the American forces at Prairie du Chien at once came to the conclusion that the savages would soon reach the Mississippi, and by crossing that stream escape the army in pursuit of them; so he engaged a steamboat, placed some regulars upon it and a six pounder, with orders to cruise up and down the Mississippi to cut off the retreat of the Sac chief and his people. The steamer proving to be a slow one was withdrawn and a faster one armed in its place—the Warrior.

On the 1st of August, the Warrior discovered the Indians on the bank of the Mississippi where they had just arrived, not far below the mouth of the Bad Ax, making preparations to cross to the west side. A flag raised by Black Hawk was not respected by the Warrior, but a fire was opened from the boat upon the Indians with not only the small arms of the regulars but the six-pounder. The fire was returned by Black Hawk's party. The contest was kept up until the steamboat was compelled to drop down the river to Prairie du Chien for fuel. The loss of the enemy was twenty-three killed. On board the Warrior none were killed and but one wounded. But the presence of the steamboat and the firing of course wholly interrupted the preparations of the savages to cross the river, while Atkinson and his army were marching rapidly upon their rear.

It was the next morning, as we have already seen, that the Americans under Gen. Atkinson came in sight of what was supposed by them to be the rear guard of the Indians, but which was, in reality, one of their out-posts. It appears that the savages raised a white flag for the purpose of surrendering, which was either not seen or was not regarded, and the firing on both sides soon became spirited, the Indians retiring slowly to their main force on the bottom of the river, where the latter were busily employed transporting their women and children and the aged and infirm across the Mississippi (the Warrior not having returned to again cut off their retreat.)

Let us now return to the American army in keen pursuit of the fugitives. It will be remem-

bered that Gen. Henry had early in the morning been put in the rear, but he did not remain there long. Maj. Ewing, who commanded the spy battalion, sent his adjutant back to the general informing him that he was on the main trail; he at the same time formed his men in order of battle and awaited the arrival of the brigade which marched up in quick time. When they came up, Gen. Henry had his men formed as soon as possible for action; he placed Col. Jones and Maj. Ewing in front. Gen. Atkinson called for a regiment from Gen. Henry's brigade to cover his rear. Col. Collins formed on the right of Col. Jones and Maj. Ewing, when all were dismounted and marched on foot in the main trail, down the bluff into the bottom. Soon the fire was opened on the main force of the enemy, at which time Gen. Henry sent back an officer to bring up Col. Fry with his regiment. Col. Collins was by this time in the heat of the action with his regiment. Capt. Gentry, from Gen. Dodge's corps, was by this time also up, and opened a heavy fire. He fell into the lines of Col. Jones and Maj. Ewing. Capts. Gruer and Richardson, from Gen. Alexander's brigade, with their companies and a few scattering gentlemen from Gen. Dodge's corps, were also up; who all joined Gen. Henry and fought bravely. Col. Fry obeyed the call of his general and was soon where the conflict raged with his regiment. By this time the savages were falling rapidly.

It was about half an hour after the battle commenced before Col. Zachary Taylor with his infantry and Gen. Dodge with his squadron got on the ground and joined in the battle. They had been thrown on the extreme right, by following the enemy's rear guard as was supposed, but which was, as already explained, their retreating outpost. Generals Posey and Alexander had been stationed up the river on the extreme right, in order to prevent the Indians from making their escape in that direction, so they did not participate in the slaughter of the savages. The victory, of course, with such overpowering numbers, was complete; but those of the Indians who escaped death from the Americans had most of them made good their retreat to one of the islands in the river, when, at an opportune moment for the attacking parties the Warrior appeared in the river and opened fire upon the fugitives with her cannon, at the same time sending her two boats to the shore to transport troops to the island, also to attack the now distressed savages. Col. Taylor sent a detachment in the boats and the Indians were soon all killed on the island but one. There were of Black Hawk's entire force, besides a few who had succeeded in reaching the west side of the Mississippi, only himself and ten warriors with thirty-five women and children who made their escape. About 150 were killed. The loss of the Americans was twenty-seven killed and wounded. Such was the battle of Bad Ax. Black Hawk was soon brought in a prisoner by the Winnebagoes, and the war was ended.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE.

"HEADQUARTERS, 1ST ARMY CORPS,
NORTHWESTERN ARMY, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN,
AUGUST 5, 1832.

"SIR:—I have the honor to report to you that I crossed the Wisconsin on the 27th and 28th ult., with a select body of troops, consisting of regulars under Col. (Zachary) Taylor, 400 in number; part of Henry's, Posey's and Alexander's brigades; and Dodge's battalion of mounted volunteers; amounting in all to 1,300 men; and immediately fell upon the trail of the enemy and pursued it by forced marches through a mountainous and difficult country, till the morning of the 2d instant, when he came up with his main body on the left bank of the Mississippi, nearly opposite the mouth of the Iowa, which we attacked, defeated and dispersed with a loss on his part of about 150 men killed and thirty-nine women and children prisoners. The precise number of the killed could not be ascertained, as the greater portion were slain after being forced into the river. Our

loss in killed and wounded, which is stated below, is very small in comparison with the loss of the enemy, which may be attributed to the enemy's being forced from his positions by a rapid charge at the commencement, and through the engagement. The remnant of the enemy, cut up and disheartened, crossed to the opposite side of the river, and has fled into the interior, with a view, it is supposed, of joining Keokuk and Wapilo's bands of Sacs and Foxes.

"The horses of the volunteer troops being exhausted by long marches, and the regular troops without shoes, it was not thought advisable to continue the pursuit. Indeed a stop to the further effusion of blood seemed to be called for, until it might be ascertained if the enemy would not surrender.

"It is ascertained from our prisoners, that the enemy lost in the battle of the Ouisconsin (Wisconsin Heights), sixty-eight killed, and a very large number wounded. His whole loss does not fall short of three hundred. After the battle of the Ouisconsin, the enemy's women and children, and some who were dismounted, attempted to make their escape by descending that river, but judicious measures being taken here by Capt. Loomis and Gen. Street, an Indian agent, thirty-two women and children, and four men have been captured, and some fifteen killed by the detachment under Lieut. Ritner.

"The day after the battle on this river I fell down with the regular troops to this place by water, and the mounted men will join us to-day. It is now my purpose to direct Keokuk to demand the surrender of the remaining principal men of the hostile party; which, from the large number of women and children we hold as prisoners, I have every reason to believe will be complied with. Should it not, they should be pursued and subdued; a step Maj. Gen. Scott will no doubt take on his arrival.

"I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the regular and volunteer forces engaged in the last battle (Bad Ax), and the fatiguing march that preceded it.

"As soon as the reports of the officers of brigades and corps are handed in, they shall be submitted with further remarks.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

H. Atkinson,
B't-Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

Maj. Gen. Macomb,
Commander-in-Chief, Washington City.

CHAPTER VII.

UNITED STATES LAND SURVEYS.

The first surveys by the general government of lands in Wisconsin, were made south of the Wisconsin river and the Fox river of Green bay. The northern boundary line of the State of Illinois, fixed April 11, 1818, on the parallel of 42 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, became, properly enough, the base line of these surveys, (as indeed of all the surveys afterward made by the United States in this State). A principal north-and-south line, known as the fourth meridian, was run at right angles, of course with the base line, and extending from it to Lake Su-

perior. This meridian line is east of all the territory in Vernon county, except what is included in the towns of Hillsborough and Greenwood. It runs south from this county, through the center of Richland, and continues on to the base line on the east boundary of Grant and on the west boundary of Lafayette and Iowa counties. It extends north, from Vernon county, through the eastern part of Monroe, Jackson, Clark and other counties, until it strikes Lake Superior a short distance to the westward of the mouth of Montreal river.

Parallel lines to the fourth meridian were run every six miles, on the east and west sides of it. The intervening six miles between these lines are called ranges. Range 1 east, is the first six miles of territory east of the fourth meridian; range 2 east, is the second six miles; and so on, to Lake Michigan. However, on the west side of the fourth meridian, the ranges are numbered consecutively westward. Range 1 west, is the first six miles of territory west of that line; range 2 west, is the second six miles; and so on, to the Mississippi river. Therefore it is, that Vernon county lies in ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 west, and in range 1 east.

HOW VERNON COUNTY WAS SURVEYED.

Parallel lines north of the base line (the north boundary line of the State of Illinois) were run every six miles, which, crossing the ranges at right angles, cut the whole into blocks six miles square, called townships. These townships are numbered by tiers going north, from the base line; the first tier being known as township 1 north, the second tier, as township 2 north, and so on until the extreme north boundary of the State (not covered by water) is reached, which is of course the extreme north side of the most northern of the Apostle Islands in Bayfield county. Now, if we begin at the base line and count the tiers of townships until Vernon county is reached, we discover that we have numbered eleven of them. We find, therefore, that some of the county is in the 11th tier; or, what is the same thing, in townships 11; but only the north half of townships 11, are in Vernon county, and these are in ranges 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 west, that is west of the fourth meridian. The next tier of townships are numbered 12, and except the one on the Mississippi, are all six miles square. They are in the same ranges as the townships numbered 11.

We now come to tier numbered 13. These townships are all, except the one on the Mississippi, six miles square. There are eight of them and they are in ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 west, and in range 1 east. Townships numbered 14, form the northern tier of Vernon county and, of course, they are the farthest from the base line. There are eight in this tier and all are whole townships except the one on the Mississippi. They, like the tier immediately south of them, are in ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 west, and in range 1 east.

From what has been said, we see that townships 13 and 14, in range 1 east, are whole townships; that townships 13 and 14, in ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 west, are also whole townships; and that townships 12, in ranges 3, 4, 5 and 6 west, are likewise complete; so that Vernon county contains eighteen congressional townships, that are each six miles square. Then, there are the half townships, numbered 11, in ranges 3, 4, 5 and 6 west, equal to two more whole ones; and the fractional townships numbered 11, 12, 13 and 14, in range 7, equal to over three townships more, making the whole territory in Vernon county comprehend over twenty-three townships of six miles square, each, or more than 828 square miles, territory sufficient for two good sized counties.

After the several township lines were run, then each township was sub-divided into sections and quarter sections. As a section is a mile square, there is of course, in every whole town-

ship, thirty-six sections of land. For convenience, these are always numbered as follows:

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

In each whole section, there are 640 acres; and, when a section is divided into four parts, each quarter section contains 160 acres. It is usually in quarter sections that the land of the United States is disposed of; although, if desired, it will be divided into eighty acre tracts, or even forty acres.

CIVIL TOWNS AND SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS.

Only eleven of the towns of Vernon county contain each a surveyed township. These are Hillsborough, Greenwood, Forest, Union, Whitestown, Stark, Clinton, Webster, Christiana, Coon and Hamburg. Seven contain each more than what would form a whole township. These are Bergen, Harmony, Sterling, Jefferson, Franklin, Viroqua and Kickapoo. The towns of Genoa, Wheatland and Liberty, contain each less than a full township, of land.

The town of Hillsborough is organized of township 14, range 1 east; Greenwood, of township 13, range 1 east; Union, of township 13, range 1 west; Forest, township 14, range 1 west; Whitestown, township 14, range 2 west; Stark, township 13, range 2 west; Kickapoo, north half of township 11, range 3 west; the east one-third of the north half of township 11, range 4 west, the south third of township 12, range 3 west, and the south one-third of the east third of township 12, range 4 west; Liberty north two-thirds of township 12, range 3 west; Webster, township 13, range 3 west; Clinton, township 14, range 3 west; Christiana, township 14, range 4 west; Viroqua, township 13, range 4 west, the north third of township 12, same range, and the middle third of the east third of the same township and range; Franklin, the west two-thirds of the south two-thirds of township 12, range 4 west, west two-thirds of the north half of township 11, same range, east half of the north half of township 11, range 5 west, and the south five-sixths of the east half of township 12, same range; Jefferson, township13, range 5 west, the north one-sixth of the east half township 12, same range, and the west half of the north half, same township and range; Coon, township 14, range 5 west; Hamburg, township 14, range 6 west; Harmony, township 12, range 6 west, and the north half of the north half of the east two-thirds of township 12, same range; Sterling, the west half of the north half of township 11, range 5 west, the east two-thirds of the north half of township 11, range 6 west, the west half of the south half of township 12, range 5 west, the east two-thirds of the south half, and the south half of the east two-thirds of the north half of township 12, range 6 west; Wheatland, the west one-third of township 11, range 6 west, the west one-third of the south third of township 12, same range, the fractional north half of township 11, range 7 west, and the fractional south two-thirds of township 12, same range; Genoa, the north two-thirds of the west two-thirds of township 12, range 6 west, the fractional north two-thirds of township 12, range 7 west, and the fractional south half of township 13, same range, and Bergen, township 14, range 7 west, and the fractional south half of township 13, same range, also fractional sections 24 and 25, in township 14, range 8 west.

AREA OF EACH TOWNSHIP.

The number of acres in each of the whole, half and fractional townships, in Vernon county,

according to the United States surveys are as follows:

1.	North half township	11,	range	3	west..	11,573.84
2.	"	"	"	4	"	11,516.76
3.	"	"	"	5	"	11,433.46
4.	"	"	"	6	"	11,477.28
5.	"	"	"	7	"	6,581.37
6.	Township	12,	range	3	west	23,287.23
7.	"	"		4	"	23,218.68
8.	"	"		5	"	23,032.51
9.	"	"		6	"	22,818.41
10.	"	"		7	"	13,891.55
11.	"	13,	"	1	east	23,035.23
12.	"	"	"	1	west	23,023.31
13.	"	"		2	"	22,994.71
14.	"	"		3	"	22,963.06
15.	"	"		4	"	22,987.50
16.	"	"		5	"	22,885.43
17.	"	"		6	"	22,874.61
18.	"	"		7	"	17,925.78
19.	"	14,	"	1	east	23,583.76
20.	"	"		1	west	23,092.59
21.	"	"		2	"	23,066.16
22.	"	"		3	"	23,139.21
24.	"	"		4	"	22,942.20
25.	"	"		5	"	23,178.51
26.	"	"		6	"	23,343.28
27.	"	"		7	"	21,644.86
28.	"	"		8	"	51.32
	Total acreage of the county.....					521,582.61

DATES OF SURVEYS AND NOTES OF SURVEYORS.

The township lines of Vernon county were run by William Burt, Joshua Hathaway, J. E. Mitchell, Uriah Biggs, John Brink, and Stuntz and Sargent, in the years 1839, 1840 and 1845; mostly in the latter year.

The first surveying was done by Joshua Hathaway, who ran the west township lines of township 13 north, range 1 east (Greenwood), and township 14 north, range 1 east (Hillsborough).

The last surveying was done by A. L. Brown in 1847, who ran the section lines west of Coon slough, in the township 13 north, range, 7 west (southern part of Bergen) and township 14 north, range 7 west (northern part of Bergen).

From the field notes of the surveyors and the government plats, many items of interest are obtained. These sources furnish the following facts:

TOWNSHIP 13 north, range 1 east (Greenwood) was surveyed in sections by James M. Marsh, United States Deputy Surveyor, in the first quarter of the year 1845, assisted by William M. Cleveland, Joseph Slone, chainmen, and James Anderson, marker. The surveyor says:

"The face of the country in this township is generally rough and broken. There is but little level or rolling land in the township. The soil is sandy. There is a heavy growth of timber, consisting of white and black oak, sugar, hickory, etc., with a heavy undergrowth of plumb, prickly ash, grape vine, green briar, etc. The country is well watered by excellent springs."

TOWNSHIP 14 north, range 1 east (Hillsborough).—This township was surveyed in sections by J. E. Davidson, United States Deputy Surveyor, who commenced his survey Dec. 24, 1851, and completed it Jan. 10, 1852. He was assisted by Andrew L. Thompson, John Otis, chainmen, and Robert Evans, axeman. The notes of the survey are as follows:

"Surface generally hilly. Soil first rate. Timber heavy and of a good quality. Well watered by numerous brooks of pure water running from springs, with rapid currents, over rock bed."

TOWNSHIP 13 north, range 1 west (Union), was surveyed by A. L. Brown, United States Deputy Surveyor, who commenced the survey of this township Jan. 3, 1846, and completed it Jan. 12, 1846. He was assisted by James Anderson, Joel M. Higgins, chainmen, and Nathaniel Higgins, marker.

TOWNSHIP 14 north, range 1 west (Forest).—This township was surveyed by Noah Philps, in the last quarter of 1847. He was assisted by William Jones, David P. Hoyt, chainmen, and Alfred L. Cleveland, marker.

Township 13 north, range 2 west (Stark), was surveyed by A. L. Brown, who commenced his survey of this township Jan. 13, 1846, a d completed it Jan. 22, 1846. He was assisted by Alexander Anderson, Joel Higgins, chainmen, and J. Anderson, marker. Surveyor's notes: "This township has a good deal of bottom land on the Kickapoo river, some of which, particularly the second bottom or highest and farthest from the river, is very rich, with oak and elm timber, prickly ash and reed willow undergrowth; but some of the flats are too wet for cultivation."

Township 14 north, range 2 west (Whitestown) was surveyed by Noah Philps, in the eleventh month of 1847, assisted by William Jones, David P. Hoyt, chainmen, and A.L. Cleveland, marker: "This township is very broken. Is valuable chiefly for its pines."

Township 11 north, range 3 west (central and southeastern part of Kickapoo) was surveyed by W. Barrows, who began this survey July 23, 1843, and finished August the same year. He was assisted by William Anderson and Edward Fitzpatrick, chainmen; also by William P. Easley, marker.

Township 12 north, range 3 west (Liberty and the sections 25–36, inclusive, of the town of Kickapoo as now organized), was surveyed by Samuel D. Dixon, who began this survey May 24, 1845, and finished it on June 4 of the same year. He was assisted by Napoleon Graham, B. C. Russell, chainmen, and James Bailey, Eli Derr, markers. Mr. Dixon says: "This township is composed of a succession of hills of almost every size and shape. The springs are inhabited by speckled trout of the finest quality."

Township 13 north, range 3 west (Webster) was surveyed by Samuel D. Dixon, assisted by Napoleon Graham, B. C. Russell, chainmen, and Eli Derr, James Bailey, markers. Notes: "Soil rolling and of first quality between the east and west forks of the Kickapoo river; the balance is mostly broken and hilly; soil light; timber the same. The whole is well watered by springs and their branches. There are some valuable well sites on the Kickapoo."

Township 14 north, range 3 west (Clinton) was surveyed by Henry Maddin, United States Deputy Surveyor, who commenced Oct. 27, 1846, and completed Dec. 12, 1847; was assisted by Samuel M. Derr, George W. Lee, chainmen, and Christopher Jacobs, axeman.

Township 14 north, range 4 west (Christiana), was surveyed by Henry Maddin in the last month of 1846. He was assisted by Samuel M. Derry, George W. Lee, chainman, and Christopher Jacobs, marker.

Township 13 north, range 4 west (northern and central part of Viroqua), was surveyed by Samuel D Dixon, who commenced this survey June 30, 1845, and completed it July 10 of the same year. He was assisted by Napoleon Graham, James Bailey, chainmen, and B. C. Russell, Eli Derr, markers.

Township 12 north, range 4 west (sections 1–12, 13, 14, 23, 24, Viroqua; sections 15–22, 27–23, the northeastern part of Franklin.) This township was surveyed by Samuel D. Dixon in June, 1845. He was assisted by Napoleon Graham, Eli Derr, chainmen, and B. C. Russell, James Bailey, markers.

Township 11 north, range 4 west (sections 1, 2 and 11 to 14, are in the central and southern part of Kickapoo; sections 3–10, 15–18, the southeastern part of Franklin); was surveyed by Samuel C. Wiltse in August, 1843. He was assisted by J. R. McLadin, M. T. Curtiss, chainmen, and E. D. Smith, markers.

Township 14 north, range 5 west (Coon), was surveyed by A. L. Brown in October, 1846, assisted by William H. Weidman, William Higgins, Joseph E. Fales, Joel M. Smith, chainmen, John M. Smith, Reuben W. Ford, markers. The surveyor says: "Timber almost universally black and white oak; some of it very good; some elm; Lincoln and ash in northeast corner on Raccoon creek. There are many fine

springs of pure water, plenty of deer and grouse."

TOWNSHIP 13 north, range 5 west (northern and central part of Jefferson), was surveyed July, 1845, by Samuel D. Dixon, assisted by Napoleon Graham, B. C. Russell, chainmen, and James Bailey, Eli Derr, markers.

TOWNSHIP 12 north, range 5 west (sections 1–9, 16–18, of the southern part of Jefferson, 10–15, 22–27, 34–36, the northwestern and central part of Franklin, 19–21, 28–33, the north eastern part of Sterling), was surveyed in 1846 by A. E. Whiteside, deputy surveyor, assisted by U. Gales, B. L. Eaton, chainmen, and A. Hetzler, marker. Mr. Whiteside's notes are as follows: "The soil of this township is third-rate, rough, hilly and broken, sparsely timbered with black and white oat. There is, however, in the southeast corner a small portion of beautifully undulated prairie, second rate soil, and fit for cultivation. The township is well watered by the finest quality of springs; tops of the highest hills are covered with rocks, flint and iron rust."

TOWNSHIP 11 north, range 5 west (sections 1–3, 10– 5, the southwestern part of Franklin; 4–9, 16–18, the southern part of Sterling), was surveyed July, 1843, by A. L. Haren, assisted by C. C. Carter, Austin Wilder, chainmen, and Louis Davis, marker. Notes of the surveyor: "The surface of this township, with the exception of a few sections in the southwestern part and sections 24 and 25, in the eastern part, is rolling, first-rate land. The soil is sandy loam, excepting the prairie; it is thickly timbered and brushy. The eastern part is watered by spring brooks, which run into the Kickapoo river. The southwestern part of the township is very broken, well timbered and watered by streams of pure water, which run into the Mississippi."

TOWNSHIP 14 north, range 6 west (Hamburg), surveyed by A. L. Brown October, 1846, assisted by William H. Weidman, William Higgins, Joseph Fales, Joel Higgins, chainmen, and John M. Smith, Reuben W. Ford, markers. "The best land in this township," says the surveyor, "is in the third bottoms (so-called) on Raccoon creek, which are located about forty feet above the creek, are dry and level. Other parts of this bottom are much lower, and where not marshy subject to inundations. After leaving the bluffs on the north side of the creek the land is a high, rolling ridge; in some places well timbered, and generally second-rate. Some of the long ravines which make toward the creek are well adapted to cultivation, with timber convenient and the purest water. The cliffs are generally about 250 to 300 feet high, terminating toward Raccoon creek in precipices of sandstone in almost every picturesque form imaginable. Along the sides of the steepest hills may be found many curious silicious and calcareous formations, but no appearances of anything more valuable."

TOWNSHIP 13 north, range 6 west, (main part of Harmony) was surveyed by N. C. Whiteside, assisted by U. Gales, A. L. Eaton, chainman and A. Hetzler marker. Notes: "This township in general is hilly and broken, the soil third rate and poor. There is however a portion of it on the north and a small portion on the south, rolling and second rate and well supplied with white and black oak timber. The remainder of the timber on the hills is scattering burr, white, black and jack oak. The river through this township affords many valuable hydraulic privileges, and is abundantly supplied with fine fresh water, springs outbreaking from the base of the hills."

TOWNSHIP 12 north, range 6 west, (sections 1–4, and northern half of 9–12, is the southern part of Harmony; 5–8 and 17 and 20, is the eastern part of Genoa; 29–31 the northeastern part of Wheatland; southern half of 9–12 and sections 13–16, 21–28, 33–36, the northwestern and central part of Sterling).—This township was surveyed by N. E. Whiteside, in 1845. He was assisted by U. Gales, A. L. Eaton, chainmen, A. Hetzler, marker. "This township," says Mr. Whiteside, "as regards its soil is

mostly third rate and poor, presenting an abrupt hilly broken surface, covered in many places with rocks, flint and iron rust. North of the river there are a few bodies of good white and black oak timber. The surveyor says: "This township in general is well watered and the river presents in many places valuable water privileges."

TOWNSHIP 11 north, range 6 west, (sections 1–4, 9–16, the southwestern part of Sterling, 5–9, 17, 18, the southeastern part of Wheatland) was surveyed by A. L. Haren, who commenced this survey July 18, 1843, and completed it July 31, the same year. He was assisted by C. C. Carter, Austin Wilder, chainmen and Louis Davis, marker. Notes: "The northeast part of this township is extremely broken and hilly. The bluffs of the creeks, springs, brooks and dry ravines are from 250 to 350 feet high, and have an elevation from 20 to 30 degrees."

TOWNSHIP 14 north, range 7 west, (the main part of Bergen) was surveyed by A. L. Brown, who commenced the survey Dec. 27, 1846, and completed it Jan. 4 1847. He was assisted by Wm. H. Weidman, Joel M. Higgins, Joseph C. Haley, chainmen, and Joshua M. Smith, Reuben W. Ford, markers.

TOWNSHIP 13 north, range 7 west, (sections 1–18, the southern part of Bergen, 21–28, 33–36, the northern part of Genoa, was surveyed by W. E. Whiteside, assisted by U. Gates, A. L. Eaton, chainmen, and A. Hetzler, marker, no dates given.

TOWNSHIP 12 north, range 7 west, (sections 1–4, 9–16, 21–24, is the central and southwestern part of Genoa, 25–28, 33–36, is the northwestern part of Wheatland), was surveyed in the first quarter of 1846, by N. E. Whiteside, assisted by U. Gales, A. L. Eaton, chainmen and A. Hetzler, marker. "This township," says the surveyor, "is measurably unfit for cultivation, being hilly and broken. Soil mostly third rate and poor. In general, the timber is of an inferior growth of burr, white and black oak. The hills fronting the Mississippi and Bad Ax rivers, are in places entirely shorn of vegetation, covered with rock, flint and iron rust. It is in all parts well supplied with springs of finest quality. The bottom of Bad Ax river (although wider in this township than any place else, is limited and mostly low and wet. The Mississippi river above and below the mouth of Bad Ax, has little or no bottom, bounded by a perpendicular ledge of sandstone, ranging from 3 to 10 chains from the river and falling abruptly from the base of the perpendicular, to the water's edge, covered with large tumbling rocks, scattering burr, white and black oak trees."

TOWNSHIP 11 north, range 7 west, (sections 1–4, 9–15, the southwestern part of Wheatland).—The survey of this township was commenced Sept. 28, 1843, and completed Oct. 10, 1843, by A. L. Haren, assisted by S. P. Folsom, S. N. Laster, chainmen, and L. Davis, marker.

LAND DISTRICTS.

The first land offices in Wisconsin were established under an act of Congress approved June 26, 1834, creating additional land districts in the States of Illinois and Missouri, and in the territory north of the State of Illinois. The first section provides "that all that tract lying north of the State of Illinois, west of Lake Michigan, south and southeast of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, included in the present territory of Michigan, shall be divided by a north and south line, drawn from the northern boundary of Illinois along the range of township line west of Fort Winnebago to the Wisconsin river, and to be called—the one on the west side, the Wisconsin land district, and that on the east side the Green bay land district of the territory of Michigan, which two districts shall embrace the country north of said rivers when the Indian title shall be extinguished, and the Green bay district may be divided so as to form two districts, when the President shall deem it proper;" and by section three of said act, the President was

authorized to appoint a register and receiver for such office, as soon as a sufficent number of townships are surveyed.

An act of Congress, approved June 15, 1836, divided the Green bay land district, as established in 1834, "by a line commencing on the western boundary of said district, and running thence east between townships 10 and 11 north, to the line between ranges 17 and 18 east, thence north between said ranges of townships to the line between townships 12 and 13 north, thence east between said townsnips 12 and 13, to Lake Michigan ; and all the country bounded north by the division line here described ; south by the base line, east by Lake Michigan, and west by the division line between ranges 8 and 9 east," to be constituted a separate district, and known as the "Milwaukee land district." It included the present counties of Racine, Kenosha, Rock, Jefferson, Waukesha, Walworth and Milwaukee, and parts of Green, Dane, Washington, Ozaukee, Dodge and Columbia.

An act was approved March 3, 1847, creating an additional land district in the territory. All that portion of the public lands lying north and west of the following boundaries, formed a district to be known as the Chippewa land district : commencing at the Mississippi river on the line between townships 22 and 23 north, running thence east along said line to the fourth principal meridian, thence north along said meridian line to the line dividing townships 29 and 30, thence east along such township line to the Wisconsin river, thence up the main channel of said river to the boundary line between the State of Michigan and the territory of Wisconsin. The counties now included in this district are Pepin, Clark, Eau Claire, Dunn, Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Taylor, Chippewa, and parts of Buffalo, Trempeleau and Jackson.

An act of Congress, aproved March 2, 1849, changed the location of the land office in the Chippewa district from the falls of St. Croix to Stillwater, in the county of St. Croix, in the proposed territory of Minnesota; and by section two of the act, an additional land office and district was created, comprising all the lands in Wisconsin not included in the districts of land subject to sale at Green Bay, Milwaukee, or Mineral Point, which was to be known as the Western land district, and the President was authorized to designate the site where the office should be located, Willow river, now Hudson, was selected. The district was usually known as the St. Croix and Chippewa district, and included St. Croix, La Pointe, and parts of Chippewa and Marathon counties.

By an act of Congress, approved July 30, 1852, so much of the public lands in Wisconsin as lay within a boundary line commencing at the southwest corner of township 15 north, of range 2 east of the fourth principal meridian, thence running due east to the southeast corner of township 15 north, of range 11 east, of the fourth principal meridian, thence north along such range line to the north line of the State of Wisconsin, thence westwardly along said north line to the line between ranges 1 and 2 east of fourth principal meridian, thence south to the place of beginning, were formed into a new district, and known as the Stevens Point land district, and a land office located at that place. The boundaries enclosed the present counties of Juneau, Adams, Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Waupacca, Portage, Wood, Marathon, Lincoln, and Shawano.

WISCONSIN LAND DISTRICT.

It will be remembered that the Wisconsin land district, by the organic act of the territory, was to be extended north of the Wisconsin river "when the Indian title should be extinguished." Now, as that event took place in 1837, it follows that when what is now Vernon county, was surveyed into townships by the United States surveyors in the years 1839, 1840 and 1845, it was in the Wisconsin land district, the land office being at Mineral Point. It was usually called the "Mineral Point land district." The surveys into sections and quarter sections

were nearly all made while in the same district; hence, the early settlers went to Mineral Point to enter their land. Among the earliest entries are noted those of Alfred Glassburn, June 6, 1847, of the south half of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 28, township 13, in range 4 west, in what is now the town of Viroqua; of Michael Hinkst, Sept. 13, 1847, of the north half of the southwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, of section 31, and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32, in township 12, of range 4 west, in the present town of Franklin; Orrin Wisel, June 17, 1848, of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 25, township 12, range 5 west, in the town of Franklin also; of LeGrand and Lewis Sterling, Aug. 10, 1848, of the south half of the southwest quarter of section 2, in township 11, of range 6 west, in the town of Sterling.

LA CROSSE LAND DISTRICT.

An act of Congress, approved March 2, 1849, formed the La Crosse land district, including within its limits the following territory:

"Commencing at a point where the line between the townships 10 and 11 touches the Mississippi river, [in the present county of Crawford,] and running thence due east of the fourth principal meridian; thence north to the line between townships 14 and 15 north; thence east to the southeast corner of township 15 north, or range 1 east of the fourth principal meridian; thence north on the range line to the south line of township 31 north; thence west on the line between townships 30 and 31 to the Chippewa river; thence down said river to the junction with the Mississippi river thence down said river to the place of beginning."

This included, though it has since been lessened, all of the present county of Vernon, likewise that of La Crosse, Monroe, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Eau Clair, Clark and parts of Juneau and Chippewa counties. Vernon county is still in the same districts.

By act of Congress, approved Feb. 24, 1855, an additional district was formed of all that portion of the Willow river land district lying north of the line dividing townships 40 and 41, to be called the Fond du Lac district, the office to be located by the President as he might from time to time direct. The present counties of Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and part of Burnett were included within its boundaries.

By an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1857, so much of the districts of land subject to sale at La Crosse and Hudson, in the State of Wisconsin, contained in the following boundaries, were constituted a new district, to be known as the Chippewa land district: North of the line dividing townships 24 and 25 north; south of the line dividing townships 40 and 41 north; west of the line dividi g ranges 1 and 2 east; and east of the line dividing ranges 11 and 12 west. The location of the office was to be designated by the President as the public interest might require. The present counties of Chippewa, Taylor, Eau Claire and Clark were in this district.

LA CROSSE LAND OFFICE.

There are at the present time six land offices in the State. They are located at Menasha, Falls of St. Croix, Wausau, La Crosse, Bayfield and Eau Claire. By the provisions of law, when the number of acres of land in any one district is reduced to 1[illegible]0,000 acres, subject to private entry, the secretary of the interior is required to discontinue the office, and the lands remaining unsold are transferred to the nearest land office, to be there subject to sale. The power of locating these offices lies with the President (unless otherwise directed by law), who is also authorized to change and re-establish the boundaries of land districts whenever, in his opinion, the public service will be subserved thereby. As the county of Vernon is in the La Crosse land district, the land office for this county, is at La Crosse. All the lands that have been entered since the opening of that office, by settlers and others in Vernon county, have, of course, been entered there.

CHAPTER VIII

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTY.

Among the questions which naturally interest the citizens of Vernon county of to-day is this: "Who was the first settler within its limits?" There is a curiosity always manifested by those who come after the pioneers, to leave his name, where he settled and the date of his arrrival. Especially is the time of his coming a matter of interest. The county itself, so far as the people constitute it, begins then, although its formation and organization date a number of years thereafter.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

The town of Franklin has the honor of being the one in which was located the first sett'er. His name was John McCullough.

The exact date of his coming is unknown, only that it was in the spring of 1844. He built a house on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 25, township 12, range 5 west, during the summer of that year. It was near what was afterward Bad Ax, now Liberty Pole. The place is now owned by Thomas Sheridan. He also did some breaking, and made other preparations to bring on his family, which he effected in the following spring.

The section upon which McCullough located was not afterward entered by him, nor any part of it. Orrin Wisel entered forty acres of it June 17, 1848, Charles Wiedeman, a quarter section, Nov. 13, 1849; Alexander C. Davis, eighty acres, Nov. 19, 1849; H. L. Dousman, forty acres, May 2, 1850; Jacob Higgins, forty acres, July 17, 1851; Julia Hart, forty acres, April 1, 1852; Thomas J. Gosling, a quarter section, July 27, 1852; Thomas J. Gosling, forty acres, Oct. 23, 1852, and Francis Sanford, forty acres, Aug. 11, 1855; in all 640 acres; the entire section.

McCullough remained on his place until the year 1852, when, in company with a number of others, he started for California. He arrived there safely, and, after a sojourn there of a year, he wrote his brother that he was on the eve of returning home; that he would start in a day or two, but he was never after heard of. The general impression is that he started on his homeward trip and died on the plains.

The next to make claims and erect a cabin (for houses in those days were little else), were two brothers, Samuel and Hiram Rice. This was in the spring of 1845. They settled at what was afterward Bad Ax, now Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin, near McCullough. Samuel Rice brought his family with him. Mrs. Rice was a most excellent woman; a devoted Christian. She died in the fall of 1847.

McCullough and the Rice brothers were soon followed by Henry Seifert, George P. Taylor and George Pike. Seifert was a bachelor. He settled at the place afterward known as the "Dowhower farm," but now owned by Benjamin Williams, on section 18, township 12, in range 4 west, in the town of Franklin. Taylor located on section 30, township 12, of range 4 west, also in the town of Franklin. The place is now owned by J. C. Adkins. Mr. Taylor is not now a resident of the county.

Harvey Sterling came to what is now the town of Sterling in July, 1846, and settled on section 10, in township 11, of range 6 east. His family, consisting of his wife and two sons, Lewis and Le Grand, came on in the spring following. Le Grand Sterling is still a resident of the county.

In the same month (July, 1846), that Harvey Sterling settled in what is now the town of

Sterling, John Graham, with his three sons—Thomas, Baker and Lamach, all grown—settled in the present town of Jefferson, on section 23, in township 13, of range 5 west, at what is now Springville.

In 1846 Moses Decker settled at what is now Viroqua; T. J. DeFrees, at the head of "De Frees' Branch," and James Foster on Round Prairie. Mr. DeFrees was accompanied by his wife and seven children, Jacob Johnson, John Graham and family, and Saul Decker.

Those just mentioned were soon followed by others. Thomas Gillett and his sons, Nicholas, Vought, James A. Cooke, George Dawson, and J. Shields—all took up claims near the present site of Viroqua; and, about this time, (1846), Ira Stevens located at what is now Victory. William C. McMichael, Samuel McMichael and Robert McMichael, Charles Waters and Henry Waters—these located at or near Springville.

Those who came during the year 1846, or previous to that time, to what is now Vernon county, were, indeed, "ye ancient pioneers." "They were subject to all the inconveniences and privations attending the establishment of new communities in remote sections of the country. They had at first to go to Prairie du Chien for their provisions and supplies."

VERNON COUNTY IN MAY, 1847.

By Alexander Latshaw.

"I settled, on the 14th of May, 1847, on West Prairie, in the present town of Sterling. There were before me, George Nichols, LeGrand Sterling, Lewis Sterling, and their father, Harvey Sterling, and James A. Clark. The whole of the present county of Vernon was then the town of Bad Ax, Crawford county. There were some Frenchmen at De Soto, then called Winneshiek. There were three who had families and one who had none. Two lived in what was afterward Bad Ax county; the others in Crawford county. They had comfortable log houses and carried on trade with the Indians. Two of them had Indian wives; they were brothers by the name of Godfrey. They left not long after the Winnebagoes went away. They would chop a little wood for steamers sometimes.

"Where the village of Victory now is, there was one Frenchman named Potwell, a trader. He was married to a squaw and had a family of children. Just above the mouth of the Bad Ax, there was another Frenchman, but he had no family. He, too, was a trader. Both left about the same time as the others who lived at Winneshiek (De Soto).

"At this time (May, 1847) there were no settlers in going east from West Prairie until the settlement that was afterwards called Liberty Pole was reached. The first settler one came to, in going east and north, was John McCollough; the next, Samuel Rice, and Hiram Rice lived with him. The next directly east was George P. Taylor. A little north and west from Samuel Rice's lived George Pike. In about two miles north of Rices (now in the town of Franklin), on the road from Liberty Pole, as often called, to what is now Viroqua, was the home of Henry Seifert. About a mile further north, on the same road, lived Jacob Johnson and T. J. DeFrees.

"At what is now Springville, lived John Graham and his family. William C. McMichael was living on Taylor's place at that time. George A. Swain came soon after and settled on section 21, township 12, range 4 west (town of Franklin). Abram Stiles and James A. Cooke came with him. Cooke settled on section 4, in what is now the town of Viroqua. Stiles found a home on section 15, township 12, range 4 west, in the present town of Franklin."

CHAPTER IX.

PIONEER LIFE.

Records of pioneer times are interesting, and they are not without their lessons of instruction. By the light of the past, we follow in the foot-prints of the adventurous and enterprising pioneer. We see him, as it were, amid the labors and struggles necessary to convert the wilderness into a fruitful field. We sit by his cabin fire, partaking of his homely and cheerfully-granted fare, and listen to the accounts which he is pleased to give us of frontier life, and of the dangers, trials, hardships and sufferings of himself and others, in their efforts to make for themselves homes in regions remote from civilization. Through these pioneer records, we make our way along to the present. From small beginnings we come to the mighty achievements of industry, the complex results of daring enterprise, subduing and creative energy and untiring perseverance.

Following on in the path of progress and improvement, we see once waste places rejoicing under the kindly care of the husbandman; beautiful farms, with all the fixtures and appurtenances necessary to make the tillers of the soil and their families contented and happy, are spread out before us; villages are built up as if by magic, and by hundreds human souls are congregated within their precincts; the marts of trade and traffic and the workshops of the artizans, are thronged; common schools, union schools and high schools have sprung up; young and ardent minds—children of the rich and the poor—may press forward together in the acquisition of science, literature and art; churches are built and a Christian ministry is sustained for the inculcation of religious sentiments and the promotion of piety, virtue and moral goodness; the press is established, whence floods of light may emanate for the instruction and benefit of all; railroads are built to bring the products of every clime, and the people from afar, to our doors; and the the telegraph "upon the lightning's wing" carries messages far and near. Let the records of the pioneers be preserved; in after years our children and our children's children will look over them with pleasure and profit.

THE LOG CABIN.

The first important business of the pioneer settler, upon his arrival in Vernon county, was to build a house. Until this was done, some had to camp on the ground or live in their wagons—perhaps the only shelter they had known for weeks. So the prospects for a house, which was also to be a home, was one that gave courage to the rough toil, and added a zest to the heavy labors. The style of the home entered very little into their thoughts—it was shelter they wanted, and protection from stress of weather and wearing exposures. The poor settler had neither the money nor the mechanical appliances for building himself a house. He was content, in most instances, to have a mere cabin or hut. This was made of round logs light enough for two or three men to lay up. The house would generally be about fourteen feet square—perhaps a little larger or smaller—roofed with bark or clapboard, and floored with puncheons (logs split once in two and the flat side laid up). For a fire-place, a wall of stones and earth was made in the best practicable shape for the purpose, in an opening in one end of the building, extending outward, and planked on the outside by bolts of wood

notched together to stay it. Sometimes a fire-place of this kind was made so large as to occupy nearly the whole width of the house. In cold weather when a great deal of wood was needed to keep the proper warmth inside, large logs were piled in the fire-place. To protect the crumbling back wall against the effects of the fire and to throw forward the heat, two back-logs, one on top of the other, were placed against it.

For a chimney, any contrivance that would carry up the smoke would do. They were usually constructed of clay and sticks. Imagine a cold winter's night when the storm of wind and snow was raging without, the huge fire blazing within, and the family sitting around! It might be cozy enough if the cold was not too intense; and, in reality, before those fire-places there was often something of cheer, as the farmer sat smoking—if he had any tobacco; and the wife knitting—if she had any yarn and needles.

For a door to his log cabin the most simple contrivance that would serve the purpose was brought into requisition. Before a door could be made, a blanket often did duty in guarding the entrance. But, as soon as convenient, some boards were split out and put together, hung upon wooden hinges, and held shut by a wooden pin inserted in an auger-hole.

PIONEER FURNITURE.

In regard to the furniture of the pioneer's cabin, it may be said that it varied in proportion to the ingenuity of the occupants, unless it was where settlers brought with them their old household supply, which, owing to the distance most of them had to come, was very seldom. It was easy enough to improvise tables and chairs; the former could be made of split logs; the latter were designed after the three-legged stool pattern, or benches served their purpose. A bedstead was a very important item in the domestic comfort of the family; and the fashion of improvising them was as follows:

A forked stake was driven into the ground diagonally from the corner of the room, and at a proper distance, upon which poles reaching from each side of the cabin were laid. The wall ends of the poles were either driven into auger-holes or rested in the openings between the logs. Bark or boards were used as a substitute for cords. Upon this, the wife spread her straw tick; and if she had a home-made feather bed, she piled it up into a luxurious mound and covered it with her sheets and bed-quilts. Sometimes sheets were hung against the wall at the head and side of the bed, which added much to the coziness of this resting-place — this pioneer bed-room. The sleeping arrangement was generally called a "prairie bedstead."

PRIMITIVE COOKERY.

If the settler arrived in the early part of the season and had not time to plant, or had no fields prepared for that purpose, he could, at least, have a truck-patch, where a little corn was planted, also a few potatoes and turnips, and some other vegetables were put in the ground. Of course this was only to make his small supply, which he had brought with him, reach as far as possible. His meager stores consisted of flour, bacon, tea and coffee. But these supplies would frequently be exhausted before a regular crop of wheat or corn could be raised, and as game was plentiful, it helped to eke them out. But when the corn was raised, it was not easily prepared for the table. The mills for grinding were at such distances away, that every other device was resorted to for making meal.

Some grated it on an implement made by punching small holes through a piece of tin or sheet-iron, and fastening it upon a board in concave shape, with the rough side out. Upon this the ear was rubbed to produce the meal. But grating could not be done when the corn become so dry as to shell off when rubbed. Some used a coffee-mill for grinding it; and a very common substitute for bread was hominy, a palatable and wholesome diet, made by boil-

ing corn in a weak lye till the hull or bran peeled off, after which it was well washed to cleanse it of the lye. It was then boiled again to soften it, when it was ready for use, as occasion required, by frying and seasoning it to the taste. Another mode of preparing hominy was by pestling. A mortar was made by burning a bowl-shaped cavity in the end of an upright block of wood. After thoroughly cleaning it of the charcoal, the corn could be put in, hot water turned upon it, when it was subjected to a severe pestling by a club of sufficient length and thickness, in the large end of which was inserted an iron wedge, banded to keep it there. The hot water would soften the corn and loosen the hull, while the pestle would crush it.

PRIMITIVE THRESHING.

When breadstuffs were needed, they had to be obtained from long distances. Owing to the lack of proper means for threshing and cleaning wheat, it was more or less mixed with foreign substances, such as smut, dirt and oats. And as the time when the settlers' methods of threshing and cleaning may be forgotten, it may be well to preserve a brief account of them here. The plan was to clean off a space of ground of sufficient size, and, if the earth was dry, to dampen it, and beat it to render it somewhat compact. Then the sheaves were unbound and spread in a circle, so that the heads would be uppermost, leaving room in the center for the person whose business it was to turn and stir the straw in the process of threshing. Then, as many horses or oxen were brought as could conveniently swing around the circle, and these were kept moving until the wheat was well trodden out. After several "floorings" or layers were threshed, the straw was carefully raked off and the wheat shoveled into a heap to be cleaned. This cleaning was sometimes done by waving a sheet up and down to fan out the chaff as the grain was dropped before it; but this trouble was frequently obviated when the strong winds of autumn were all that was needed to blow out the chaff from the grain. This mode of preparing the grain for flouring was so imperfect that it is not to be wondered at that a considerable amount of black soil got mixed with it, and unavoidably got into the bread. This, with an addition of smut, often rendered it so dark as to have less the appearance of bread than mud; yet upon such diet the people were compelled to subsist for want of a better.

GOING TO MILL.

Not the least among the pioneers tribulations, during the first few years of the settlement, was the going to mill. The slow mode of travel by ox teams was made still slower by the almost total absence of roads and bridges, while such a thing as a ferry was hardly even dreamed of. The distance to be traversed was often as far as sixty or ninety miles. In dry weather, common sloughs and creeks offered little impediment to the teamsters; but during floods and the breaking up of winter, they proved exceedingly troublesome and dangerous. To get stuck in a slough, and thus be delayed for many hours, was no uncommon occurrence, and that, too, when time was an item of grave import to the comfort and sometimes even to the lives of the settlers' families Often a swollen stream would blockade the way, seeming to threaten destruction to whoever would attempt to ford it. With regard to roads, there was nothing of the kind worthy of the name.

When the early settlers were compelled to make these long and difficult trips to mill, if the country was prairie over which they passed, they found it comparatively easy to do in summer when grass was plentiful. By traveling until night, and then camping out to feed the teams, they got along without much difficulty. But in winter such a journey was attended with no little danger. The utmost economy of time was, of course, necessary. When the goal was reached, after a week or more of toilsome travel, with many exposures and risks, and the

poor man was impatient to immediately return with the desired staff of life, he was often shocked and disheartened with the information that his turn would come in a week. Then he must look about for some means to pay expenses, and he was lucky who could find employment by the day or job. Then, when his turn came, he had to be on hand to bolt his own flour, as, in those days, the bolting machine was not an attached part of the other mill machinery. This done, the anxious soul was ready to endure the trials of a return trip, his heart more or less concerned about the affairs of home.

Those milling trips often occupied from three weeks to more than a month each, and were attended with an expense, in one way or another, that rendered the cost of breadstuffs extremely high. If made in the winter, when more or less grain-feed was required for the team, the load would be found to be so considerably reduced on reaching home that the cost of what was left, adding other expenses, would make their grain reach the high cash figure of from $3 to $5 per bushel. And these trips could not always be made at the most favorable season for traveling. In spring and summer, so much time could hardly be spared from other essential labor; yet, for a large family, it was almost impossible to avoid making three or four trips during the year.

WILD ANIMALS.

Among other things calculated to annoy and distress the pioneer was the prevalence of wild beasts of prey, the most numerous and troublesome of which was the wolf. While it was true, in a figurative sense, that it required the utmost care and exertion to "keep the wolf from the door," it was almost as true in a literal sense. There were two species of these animals, the large, black, timber wolf, and the smaller gray wolf that usually inhabited the prairie. At first, it was next to impossible for a settler to keep small stock of any kind that would serve as a prey to these ravenous beasts. Sheep were not deemed safe property until years after, when their enemies were supposed to be nearly exterminated. Large numbers of wolves were destroyed during the early years of settlement. When they were hungry, which was not uncommon, particularly during the winter, they were too indiscreet for their own safety, and would often approach within easy shot of the settlers's dwellings. At certain seasons their wild, plaintive yelp or bark could be heard in all directions at all hours of the night, creating intense excitement among the dogs, whose howling would add to the dismal melody.

It has been found by experiment that but one of the canine species, the hound, has both the fleetness and courage to cope with his savage cousin, the wolf. Attempts were often made to capture him with the common cur, but this animal, as a rule, proved himself wholly unreliable for such a service. So long as the wolf would run the cur would follow; but the wolf, being apparently acquainted with the character of his pursuer, would either turn and place himself in a combatative attitude, or else act upon the principal that "discretion is the better part of valor," and throw himself upon his back in token of surrender. This strategic performance would make instant peace between these two scions of the same house; and not infrequently dogs and wolves have been seen playing together like puppies. But the hound was never known to recognize a flag of truce; his baying seemed to signify "no quarters;" or, at least, so the terrified wolf understood it.

Smaller animals, such as panthers, lynxes, wildcats, catamounts and polecats, were also sufficiently numerous to be troublesome. And an exceeding source of annoyance were the swarms of mosquitoes which aggravated the trials of the settler in the most exasperating degree. Persons have been driven from the labors of the field by their unmerciful assaults.

The trials of the pioneer were innumerable, and the cases of actual suffering might fill a volume of no ordinary size. Timid women became brave through combats with real dangers, and patient mothers grew sick at heart with the sight of beloved children failing in in health from lack of commonest necessaries of life. The struggle was not for ease or luxury, but was a constant one for the sustaining means of life itself.

CHAPTER X.

FIRST THINGS.

John McCullough was the first settler in what is now Vernon county. Where he located was then (1844) in Crawford county.

The first couple married in Vernon county were George P. Taylor and Martha J. De Frees, April 8, 1847.

The first white child born, of American parents, in the county was Electa S. De Frees, May 10, 1847.

The first death was Mrs. Samuel Rice in the fall of 1847.

The first school was opened in the spring and summer of 1849, taught by Jennie Clark, now Mrs. Messerssmith.

The first school house was erected on the ridge between Viroqua and Brookville, built by George Swain, Abram Stiles and T. J. De Frees. It was intended also as a church.

The first Church organized was a Methodist, at the house of T. J. De Frees, in 1848; the services were monthly.

John Graham commenced, in 1846, the erection of the first grist mill, at Springville.

The first professional lawyer in the county was William F. Terhume, in 1851.

The first newspaper was the *Western Times*, started in June, 1856.

The first term of circuit court was held at Viroqua by Judge Wiram Knowlton, commencing on the third Monday of May, 1851.

The first county officers chosen in the county were: Thomas J. De Frees, county judge; Orrin Wisel, clerk of the court and county board of supervisors; James A. Cooke, county treasurer; Jacob Higgins, register of deeds; and Samuel McMichael, county surveyor.

The first frame dwelling in the county was erected in Viroqua by Messrs. Terhume and Bullard.

Orrin Wisel was the first blacksmith in the county; located at Liberty Pole in 1848.

John Graham erected the first mill in the county at Springville in 1847.

The first actual settlement in the county was near Liberty Pole, in the present town of Franklin.

The first postoffice in the county was at Liberty Pole.

The first person who held family worship in the county was Mrs. Samuel Rice.

The first camp-meeting was held in the summer of 1849 in the valley near the place where afterward resided Rev. J. A. Cooke. The only minister (Methodist) present was Jesse Perdunn.

The first child born, of Norwegian parents, in the county was Brown Olson, in the now town of Christiana on the southwest quarter of section 35. His birth was March 30, 1850.

The first Methodist class-meeting in the county was led by J. A. Cooke, who afterward became a Methodist preacher. This was in the year 1849.

FIRST PREACHING IN THE COUNTY.

Among the first settlers of the county there was a distant, yet distinct form of religion, acknowledged by a few; but the power thereof was weak. The first settlers had left their old homes in other States and emigrated hither for the purpose of improving their worldly condition; and, as they located at that time in, as it were, an isolated country, away from settlements to the distance of fifty miles, on wild and never before occupied prairies except by the aboriginees, their minds would, very naturally, seem to partake of the wilderness and the indifference which characterize the first settler of every new country. The support of their families must of necessity be the first desideratum, and when this is done, there was but little time remaining for worship, especially where the toils and difficulties of a pioneer life had unnerved the inclination; and the spirit of what is sometimes called luke-warmness prevailed to some extent.

However, near the close of the first year's settlement, the modern pilgrims in the inchoate county of Bad Ax, had become somewhat organized; and as there were but few of them, a spirit of warm friendship and congeniality very naturally arose between them; which sympathy and kindred feelings stole unobtrusively over the mind and heart, inspiring a higher devotion and sense of obligation to a higher Being.

In the summer of the year 1847, a Mr. Lee, from Illinois, visited the settlement, and preached the first sermon ever delivered in the county. It was at the dwelling of Samuel Rice. There were on this occasion not to exceed twelve hearers, mostly men. During the delivery of this introductory sermon a huge black bear passed by the assembly, whereupon mostly all the male portion of the congregation immediately dismissed themselves and went in pursuit of the animal, leaving the minister to finish his sermon in the presence of the few remaining females. Mr. Lee preached occasionally during the summer of 1847 to the people at their dwellings, took a claim of land near the head of the branch afterward familiarly known as "Lee's Branch," about three miles northeast of where the village of Viroqua now stands.

"The first religious service in the county," writes Flora D. Weeden, "was conducted by a wandering miner, (Mr. Lee), who was prospecting through the county, stopped over Sabbath at the house of Samuel Rice. The entire settlement assembled to hear him preach. About the time the service had fairly commenced a black bear passed through the yard. All the men took their rifles and followed the bear, leaving the women and children to listen to the sermon. I was then twelve years old, but I remember the incident. This occurred in the summer of 1847."

FIRST CHURCH ORGANIZED.

The first Church organized in what is now Vernon county was by the Methodists. It was called the Bad Ax Church, and embraced the whole of the county in its district. In 1847 Elder Wood, of Prairie du Chien, left an appointment to preach at the dwelling of T. J. De Frees, which appointment was filled by Mr. Thomas, formerly of Philadelphia, but at that time from Prairie du Chien. Among the settlers of the county that are remembered at that date, were John McCullough, Samuel and Hiram Rice, Henry Seifert, Mr. Pike, John Graham, T. J. De Frees, Jacob Johnson, John Harrison, Abram Stiles, Solomon Decker, James Foster, Thomas Gillett, J. A. Cooke, G. A. Swain, E. P. Kelly and Robert Foster and their families.

Mr. Thomas formed a society of Church members during his labors among the people of the settlement. He warmed the hearts of the luke-warm Christians, and inspired into them new life and higher hopes, encouraged their zeal, and placed their feet upon the high-

way whither many of them continued to travel so long as they lived. The first who joined this new-born band of Christians in the wilderness, were J. A. Cook and wife, G. A. Swain and wife, Henry Seifert and his mother, and the wife of Samuel Rice; the last mentioned being the first person in the county to hold family worship. All who knew her testify to her deep and inward piety, her true devotion to her Savior, and her love for everything of a sacred character. Mr. Thomas continued preaching occasionally in the settlement during the remainder of the year 1847, and often in the following year.

During the summer of 1849, the number of inhabitants had so increased in the settlements, that it became convenient to have schools as well as meetings for religious worship; so the people of the thinly settled district, united and put up a cabin in the grove through which the road passed, from Virginia to Liberty Pole, then called Bad Ax. It was both a school house and a church. In the fall of that year (1849), Jesse Perdunn, from Grant county, visited the settlement, and, as a matter of course, the cabin school house was his appointed place to preach.

Religion and a general spirit of piety at this time, began to pervade the minds of the settlers and prayer and class meetings were held frequently, at the dwellings of the people. J. A. Cooke led the first class-meeting that was held in the county, and from that time others began to work more zealously in the cause. A spirit of Christian freedom began to rest upon the minds of the community.

In the summer of 1849, the first camp-meeting was held in the county. It was near the place where Rev. J. A. Cooke afterward resided. Mr. Perdunn was the only minister present. Many were converted and a large number were added to the Church, which, at this time, had assumed an active power, and wielded a strong influence throughout the community; but there also were many back-sliders.

The Church continued to progress, and gradually increased in numbers during the year following (1850); when, in the month of August, a large number met at the place occupied the previous year and held another camp-meeting. At this meeting Elder Hobart was present, Mr. Perdunn, James Bishop and other ministering brethren. Elder Hobart was the first elder to visit the Church, and his district comprised the entire State of Wisconsin, north of the Wisconsin river. Mr. Perdunn's labors here closed for a few years, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had been instrumental in building up the first religious denomination in the county.

CHAPTER XI.

FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

The territory now included within the limits of Vernon county was first a part of Crawford county. The last mentioned county was formed by proclamation of Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan territory, Oct. 26, 1818. An east and west line passing near the northern limits of what is now Barron county, separated Crawford from the county of Michilimackinac on the north; a line drawn due north from the northern boundary of Illinois, through the mid

dle of the portage of Fox and Wisconsin rivers, was the boundary line between it and Brown county on the east. It was bounded on the south by Illinois, and on the west by the Mississippi river, the western limit of the territory.

In 1829 Iowa county was formed, embracing all that part of Crawford county south of the Wisconsin river, and including the islands therein. In 1834 Brown county was extended westward to the Wisconsin river above the portage, leaving that stream the boundary of Crawford county on the east, as well as south. These are all the changes of boundary that were made while the county remained within the jurisdiction of Michigan territory. Wisconsin territory was formed in 1836. The northern portion of it had previously been embraced in the counties of Michilimackinac and Chippewa. The dividing line between the State of Michigan and the territory of Wisconsin left the organization of those counties within the former, and extinguished them so far as they lay within the limits of the latter; and, in 1838, the district of country thus vacated, lying east of the Mississippi and Grand Fork rivers and north of the original county of Crawford, was attached to and made a part of that county for judicial purposes. Thus it was that Crawford county had its limits virtually extended to Lake Superior and the British dominions, on the north. Afterward, counties were formed at different times out of its territory until, in 1851, it was reduced to its present limits by the erection of La Crosse county, and also of

BAD AX COUNTY.

The acts by which this county was designated by boundaries and named, and by virtue of which it was fully organized, were as follows:

[I.]

"An act to divide the county of Crawford and organize the counties of Bad Ax and La Crosse.

"*The People of the State of Wisconsin, represented in the Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows*:

"SEC. 1. All that portion of the county of Crawford lying between sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and24 in township 11 and township 15 north, of ranges 2, 3, 4,5, 6 and 7 west, be, and hereby is organized into a separate county, to be known and called by the name of Bad Ax; and all that portion of Crawford county lying north of township number 14 north, of ranges 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 be, and hereby is organized into a separate county, to be known and called by the name of La Crosse.

"SEC. 2. On the first Tuesday in the month of April next, the electors of said counties of Bad Ax and La Crosse shall, in addition to electing their town officers, vote for and elect all officers necessary for a complete county organization, and the county officers so elected shall qualify by bond and oath as prescribed by law, and enter upon the duties of their respective offices upon the third Monday of May, and continue in office until the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, and until their successors are elected and qualified. It is hereby made the duty of the clerk of the board of supervisors of the county of Crawford to make out notices of such elections to be posted in the respective counties upon the publication of this act; and the sheriff of Crawford county shall cause the said notices to be duly posted as in other general elections.

"SEC. 3. The county of Bad Ax shall remain one town until the board of town supervisors shall divide the same into three or more towns, and the supervisors, town clerk and town treasurer may act as and be county officers for such offices respectively.

"SEC. 4. (This section refers wholly to La Crosse county and is, therefore, not given).

"SEC. 5. (This section has reference entirely to Crawford county; hence it, also, is omitted).

"SEC. 6. From and after the third Monday of May next, the said counties of Bad Ax and La

Crosse shall be organized for judicial (and) county purposes, and for all purposes and matters whatever, and the county of Chippewa shall be attached to the county of La Crosse for judicial purposes. The circuit court shall be holden in the county of Bad Ax on the third Monday of May and fourth Monday of November of each year, and in the county of La Crosse on the fourth Monday of February and the fourth Monday of August of each year.

"SEC. 7. All writs, process, appeals, suits, recognizances, or other proceedings whatever already commenced, or that may hereafter be commenced, previous to the third Monday of May next, in the county or circuit court of Crawford county, shall be prosecuted to a final judgment, order or decree, and execution may issue thereon and judgment, order or decree may be carried into execution in like manner, and the sheriff of said county shall execute all process therein, in like manner as if this act had not passed, anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

"SEC. 8. The returns of all elections provided for in this act shall be made for the county of Bad Ax to the clerk of the board of supervisors of the present town of Bad Ax, who shall issue certificates, within ten days from the time of holding such election, to the persons elected to the respective offices. The returns for the county of La Crosse, shall, so far as county officers are concerned, be made to the clerk of the board of town supervisors for the town of Albion, and said clerk shall issue like certificates of election within fifteen days after said election, to the persons duly elected.

"SEC. 9. The county seat of the county of Bad Ax shall be at such place as the board of supervisors shall designate, until a place shall be permanently located by election upon that subject, and the qualified electors may vote at any election for the permanent location, and the place (designated by ballot) that shall have a majority of all the votes cast upon that subject, shall be the permanent county seat for said county.

"SEC. 10. The location of the county seat of La Crosse county, is provided for by this section.

GEORGE H. WALKER,
Speaker of the Assembly, pro tempore.
SAMUEL W. BEALL,
Lt.-Gov. and President of the Senate.
Approved March 1, 1851.
NELSON DEWEY."

II.

"An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to divide the county of Crawford and organize the counties of Bad Ax and La Crosse."

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

"SEC. 1. All that portion of the county of Crawford included within the following boundaries, shall form and constitute, and is hereby organized into a separate county to be known and called by the name of Bad Ax, viz: Beginning at the northwest corner of the county of Richland, thence running south on the range line between ranges 2 and 3 west, to the northeast corner of section 24, of township 11, north of range 3 west, thence west on the section line to the boundary line of this State, in the main channel of the Mississippi river, thence northerly on the boundary line of this State in the said river, to the point of intersection of said boundary line and the township line between townships 14 and 15 north, thence east on said township line to the northeast corner of township 14 north, of range 1 east, thence south on the range line between ranges 1 and 2 east, to the southeast corner of township 13, of range 1 east, thence west on the township line between 12 and 13 to the place of beginning. And all of that portion of the county of Crawford lying north and northwest of the said county of Bad Ax be, and hereby is organized into a separate county to be known and called by the name of La Crosse.

"SEC. 2. Section 1 of the act to which this is amendatory is hereby repealed.

FREDERICK W. HORN,
Speaker of the Assembly.
DUNCAN C. REED,
President, pro tempore, of the Senate.
Approved March 1, 1851.
NELSON DEWEY."

Upon the passage of these acts, the proper steps were taken to organize the county as provided therein. An election was held on the first Tuesday of April, 1851, to choose all the county officers necessary for a complete county organization (a list of which is given in a subsequent chapter); and the officers so elected were qualified by bond and oath as prescribed by the the law then in force, on the third Monday of May following, and on that day they entered upon the duties of their respective offices. At the same date, the first circuit court was holden, as will hereafter be more fully explained; so that then the wheels of the county organization were all set in motion. Vernon county, therefore, as to its civil organization, dates from the third Monday of May, 1851.

As provided in the organic acts of the county, a county seat was designated by the board of supervisors, until a place should be permanently located by an election by the qualified voters of the county. The place designated by them was the village of Viroqua; and it was here, therefore, that the various officers entered upon their duties and the circuit court held its first session.

It was provided in the act of March 1, 1851, that "the qualified electors might vote at any election for the permanent location" of the county seat; and the place (designated by ballot) that should have a majority of all the votes cast upon that subject, should be the permanent county seat for the county. Some thought the election, when called, ought to be by the county board of supervisors. Looking to the calling of such an election, the following petition was handed to the clerk of the board and filed Nov. 1, 1851:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of the county of Bad Ax, request the supervisors of Bad Ax county to call an election on the 10th day of January, 1852, * * * for locating the county seat.

R. Dunlap,	Rufus Gillet,
George S. McCormick,	L. A. Pierce,
T. J. De Frees,	Eldad Inman,
Cyrus F. Gillett,	James M. Bailey,
Moses Decker,	A. Latshaw,
J. A. Cooke,	Isaac S. Decker."

But this petition, either because the board thought the day set was too soon, or that they doubted their authority to call an election, was not acted upon by the supervisors.

To remove all difficulties and doubts concerning the calling of the election and fixing upon a day when it should be held, the Legislature passed as an act, which was approved by the governor on the 14th of April, 1852, in these words:

"An act to permanently locate the county seat of Bad Ax county.

"*The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

"SEC. 1. The qualified electors of the county of Bad Ax shall be and are hereby authorized to vote for the permanent location of the county seat of said county, at an election hereby authorized to be held therein on Tuesday, the 25th day of May, 1852, and polls shall be opened at the usual places of holding elections, which shall be conducted in the same manner as is provided by law for conducting general elections.

SEC. 2. The sheriff of said county shall give at least ten day's notice of said election by posting or causing to be posted three written or printed notices, in public places in the vicinity of each place where the polls are to be held, which notice shall state the object and the time and place of holding the same; and the affidavit

of the person or persons posting the same shall be filed with the clerk of the board of supervisors previous to the canvass by the board of county canvassers.

"SEC. 3. It shall be competent and lawful for each qualified elector, as specified in the first section of this act, to vote at said election for such place as he may think proper to designate, for the permanent county seat of said county; each ballot to contain the words written or printed or partly written and partly printed: "For permanent county seat (naming the place)" and no vote shall be thrown out by the inspectors for any irregularity, if the intention of the elector is clearly specified.

"SEC. 4. The votes given at such election shall be canvassed by the inspectors, and returned as provided by law to the clerk of the board of supervisors, within one week from the time of holding said election.

"SEC. 5. On the Tuesday next succeeding the election, the board of county canvassers, as chosen under the provisions of law, shall meet at the office of the clerk of the board of supervisors of said county, and proceed to make an estimate and statement of the votes cast, as follows: They shall make duplicate statements, written out in words at length, of the whole number of votes given at said election, and the names of the places voted for for county seat, and the number of votes each said place received, which said statement shall be certified as correct, and attested by the signatures of the said county canvassers, one of which statements shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the board of supervisors and recorded in a suitable book provided for that purpose, and the other shall forthwith be forwarded to the secretary of State, to be by him filed in his office, and the said secretary shall forthwith publish in the newspaper in which the laws of the State are officially published, a certified copy of such statement. If it shall appear from the statement so made, that any one place has received a majority of all the votes cast at such election, then such place shall be deemed and declared to be the permanent county seat of said county.

"SEC. 6. If, upon, canvassing the votes as provided for in the preceding section of this act, it shall appear that no place has received a majority of all the votes cast, then a new election for choosing a location for permanent county seat, shall be held on Tuesday, the 29th day of June, A. D. 1852; and the sheriff shall cause like notice to be given of the election so ordered, and proof of the posting up of such notices shall be made as is provided in section 2 of this act; which notices shall also contain the further statement of the names of the two places having the highest number of votes for permanent county seat at the preceding election, and no vote cast at such second election shall be counted unless it designate the name of one of the two places having the highest number of votes at the previous election.

"SEC. 7. The votes cast at such second election shall be canvassed by the inspectors and returned to the clerk of the board of supervisors within one week after such election, and on the Tuesday next succeeding such election, they shall be opened by the county canvassers, and duplicate statements thereof made, and a certified copy of such statements shall be published by the Secretary of State, as provided in section 5, and the place having the highest number of votes at such election, shall be deemed and declared to be the permanent county seat of said county.

"SEC. 8. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

J. MCM. SHAFTER,
Speaker of the Assembly.
E. B. DEAN, JR.,
President pro tem. of the Senate.

Approved April 14, 1852.

LEONARD J. FARWELL.

[Published May 12, 1852.]

In accordance with the provisions of the act just given, an election was held on Tuesday, the 25th day of May, 1852, to determine where

the permanent county seat of Bad Ax county should be located. There were but two places competing for the prize—Viroqua and Springville. Viroqua won; and the county seat has ever since remained there.

ORIGIN OF "BAD AX" UNKNOWN.

The name given to the county by the Legislature when it passed the bill for its formation was suggested by Thomas J. DeFrees. Although it proved to be an unfortunate suggestion, it was one very natural to be made; as this part of the county of Crawford previous to the formation of Vernon, formed a part of the town of Bad Ax; besides the principal river which rises within its limits was known by the same name. It was because this stream was so called, that gave name to the battle fought below its mouth between the Americans and the Indians under Black Hawk—"Battle of Bad Ax"—as explained in a previous chapter. And it, too, gave name to the town of Bad Ax. It may be said, therefore, that the county was named from the Bad Ax river, a description of which has already been given.

We now come to the origin of the name; and here we are met (or confronted) by three different traditions, or, more properly speaking, theories.

(1.) It has been claimed that the term "Bad Ax," is derived from the Indian word *Minnesheik*, the Indian name of the river. But, while it is true, that the Indians called what is now known as the Bad Ax, by the name Minnesheik, it is not true that the meaning of the latter is *Bad Ax*. It has no such signification in the language of any of the tribes who have for the last 200 years, inhabited this region of country.

(2.) It has been stated that the origin of the name was because of the failure of the Indians who lived at the mouth of the river, to make good axes out of the stone to be found there, on account of their softness. But the Sacs and Foxes and the Winnebagoes were furnished with steel implements by the fur-traders long before either of these tribes lived upon the Mississippi, or any of its branches. This tradition, therefore, must fall to the ground, for the reason that the name was never applied to the river until the Winnebagoes took possession of the county, as will hereafter be fully shown. But there is another reason why the theory is an absurd one, and that is, the present race of red men do not make stone axes. It is the work of a forgotten people.

(3.) It has often been stated that the term *bad ax*, as applied to the river, is a corruption of the French *bateaux*, the story being, that a French trader once anchored his *bateaux* at the mouth of the stream, and the Indians ever after applied the term they heard him pronounce frequently, to the river. But, this theory has evidently been started by some one who had no knowledge how *bateaux* is pronounced. No French trader would give the sound of *ks* to the *x* in the word, but would pronounce it *bat-oze*; and this certainly, could never have suggested *bad ax*. And to make the matter still more absurd, it is said the Indians could not pronounce *bateaux* at all, but gave the word as near as they could, which sounded to English ears as *bad ax*. Now, any one who has heard a Sac or Fox Indian or Winnebago speak French, will testify that the word *bateaux* can be pronounced by an Indian perfectly, and with ease. It may be stated, therefore, with certainty, that the origin of the name, as applied to the Bad Ax river, is wholly unknown.

Nearly all the early maps of the upper Mississippi river have the Bad Ax noted on them, but by a different name. It is always called "R. au Canot," that is, "Canoe river." It is so marked on Senex, 1715; De Fer, 1718; Bowen, 1752; Popple, 1773. On the following maps, it is noted as "Canoe River;" Kitchen, 1773; Faden, 1777; Pownal, 1779; Jeffrey, 1779; Lewis, 1795; Map United States, 1804. It first appears as "Bad Ax river," on Farmer's "Map of Ouisconsin," 1830. It is also seen on Burr, 1836; on Mitchell, 1838; and on Hinman, same date. It is evident, therefore, that the first name given

to the river was Canoe, and that the name Bad Ax, is a modern one, one that was not applied to it until after the Winnebagoes took possession of this portion of the State.

UNPOPULARITY OF "BAD AX."

The name Bad Ax proved to be an unpopular one and the project of changing it had been impressed on the minds of some of the prominent citizens of the county, for a length of time. The word seemed, and in truth, did sound " Bad"-ly at home and abroad; and, it was thought, it served to discourage emigration. The papers abroad took it up and advocated a change. The follow is from the Chicago *Tribune* of 1861 :

"The general impression gained of Bad Ax county is an unfavorable one. It is looked upon as a back woods country, out of the way and out of the world. It is also looked upon as a rough, hilly country, of rather poor soil, and destitute of prairies and water—in fact a country where a man must dig out an existence by hard labor, and get a poor living at that. Such I am warranted in saying is the general impression, for, having been somewhat of a traveler on the Mississippi, I have heard its character freely commented upon by travelers, as they were passing by its western border. There has been much misapprehension on this point, and I think it has all arisen from the 'Bad' in its name.

"Without going into the history of the name, or why it was given to this county, and the river which runs through it, I will say that "Minnesheik" is said to be the Indian word for "Bad Ax," and the probability is, that another year will not elapse before the name of Bad Ax will be changed for that of the pretty sounding Indian name—"Minnesheik." The people of this county feel that there is something repulsive in the name "Bad Ax," and inasmuch as they have just as fine and as rich soil as there is in Wisconsin, they propose to have hereafter, as a good name. They believe there is really something in a name, and they want a good one."

Exactly when the first proposition was made to have the name of the county (Bad Ax, changed is unknown; and it would be of little importance if it could be determined. It is certain, however, that as early as 1856, it had commenced to be agitated in a public way. A lady correspondent of the *Western Times*, in a communication appearing in the issue of Oct. 25, 1856, says :

"In a July number of the *Times* (not found), I noticed a proposition to change the name of our county. As the subject has been broached allow me to 'agitate' the matter a little further. I expected to see the name of Fremont or Dayton, or some other hero proposed for a substitute. It is all right and proper that those men should receive all the honor their friends would confer upon them. Indeed, I hope Fremont will be elected to the Presidential chair, and I would vote for him myself if you men would let me. But while I would give him due credit for his valor, there are heroines, or one at least, in your village (of Viroqua) that has displayed courage equal to that which would explore the Rocky Mountains or face a cannon's mouth.

"A woman who would be the first to settle in the wilderness, among savages and barbarians, without a female companion, deserves the respect and honor that would be acceded to a man that had been 'through the wars.' As a tribute of our respect, I motion that the name of our county be changed to that of Ellen. I think it would be a pretty name; at the same time it would show to the woman that we appreciate her services in commencing a settlement in this rich and beautiful county.

"The name as it now is, is ridiculed by 'Yankees,' only that they think it should be 'Bad Acts' instead of 'Bad Ax.' Give us a name that we need not be ashamed of."

"We have always been in favor," says the *Northwestern Times*, of Nov. 7, 1860, "of changing the name of this county—its present name is without any good origin and without mean

ing. We have used all the means in our power to find out the origin or cause of its present name, and we think Judge Knowlton the best authority.

"He says that when this whole region was populated by Indians, a French trader came up to the mouth of the stream known as Bad Ax, in a *bateaux* loaded with goods, anchored his craft there, and opened trade with the redmen. The Indians could not pronounce the name *bateaux*, and the nearest they could come to it was to utter a sound which degenerated into Bad Ax. After this, the stream which the Indians called Minneskeik, was called Bad Ax*, and when the county was erected it was called Bad Ax county; and now we have Bad Ax county, Bad Ax city, Bad Ax village, North and South Bad Ax rivers—Bad Ax enough to chop all humanity to pieces‡.

"If the name," continues the editor, "of our county must correspond with tradition, let us change it at once back to Bateaux, and give it a name that has some meaning. But we are in favor of giving it a good one while we are about it; and we have no particular objection to calling it Minnesheik, after its principal river, though we could select a name that we like better than this. But let us have a name that strangers will not pronounce with a thrill of horror as they do the name of Bad Ax."

In November, 1860, the Milwaukee *Sentinel* published the following from a La Crosse correspondent:

"A few days since, having received an invitation from a friend to accompany him on a speech-making trip, I turned my horses heads towards the county now known as Bad Ax. I had been here once before and was then agreeably surprised at the nature and character of the country that was opened to my vision. Judging from the name, Bad Ax, I had been led to believe that the county was *bad*—decidedly so. I had supposed that it was not only rough, but all timbered, and of a rather thin and poor soil. As to my suppositions and conjectures, erroneous as they have been, I believed they were the same as entertained by the community generally. I have traveled not a little on the Mississippi and have heard travelers express their opinions, and then most always given with a shrug of the shoulders, as though there was something repulsive in the name, Bad Ax.

"The people of this most flourishing county feel that there is something in a name; and they feel justly that they have been entirely lost sight of; that they are regarded as in the back woods and of not much account; and they are inclined to think it is on account of the 'Bad' there is in the name of their county; for, certainly, there is nothing bad in its soil.

"Minnesheik is said to be an Indian word for Bad Ax; * and in all probability, application will be made at the next session of the Legislature for a change of name; and, if granted, Bad Ax county will follow the example set in other portions of the State, of adopting and retaining the more euphonious and prettier sounding Indian name, and of discarding such a senseless, jaw-breaking appellation as 'Bad Ax.'"

CHANGING THE NAME TO "VERNON."

Finally, when Jeremiah M. Rusk was in the Legislature, in 1862, W. F. Terhune prepared petitions and circulated them throughout the county for signatures, asking the Legislature to change the name, but without designating a substitute. And here we introduce a letter of Gov. Rusk, addressed to the editor, explanatory of what followed:

"EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
MADISON, WIS., October 29, 1883.

"Dear Sir:

"Many of the leading citizens of the county believed that the name Bad Ax was a detri-

*We have just shown the fallacy of this supposed origin of the term.

‡At this time (1883) there is but one "Bad Ax" left in the county, and that one is the original—Bad Ax river.

*This is an error; it has previously been discussed in this chapter.

ment to the future prosperity of the county. The Hon. William F. Terhune went east about 1859, and when he returned he was thoroughly convinced that the name of the county was a great detriment to it, and from that time he strongly urged the change. An effort was made to change the name in 1860. In 1861 I was elected to the Assembly, and a very strong petition was signed and presented to me, urging the change to something else, but not designating what. At that time I was not very favorable to the change; but when the Legislature convened I became thoroughly convinced that the name was a detriment to the county. Whenever I rose and addressed the chair, and the speaker recognized "the gentlemen from Bad Ax," every body in the chamber turned to look at the member to see if he looked like the rest of the members. I immediately wrote Judge Terhune to select a name and I would do what I could to make the change. Judge Terhune sent me the name "Vernon," and the bill was presented and passed that Legislature.

Yours very truly,
J. M. Rusk."

Mr. Terbune found much trouble in selecting a new name that was pleasing to the people. Some thought it should be Wheatland; others suggested Minnesheik, as already noticed; and other names had advocates. Finally, Mr. Terhune hit upon the name of Vernon as a kind of compromise. The reason for its suggestion was that the root of the word (greenness) was applicable not to the people but to the general appearance of the county, covered as it was in many places with green wheat fields. Besides this, the word was euphonic and carried with it a pleasing association with Mt. Vernon the home (as is well known) of the Father of his Country, during his lifetime. These considerations induced Mr. Terhune to believe that the word would be, as it proved, generally acceptable to the inhabitants of the county; and he sent it forward as Gov. Rusk states in his letter just given.

The bill introdued by Hon. J. M. Rusk and which passed the Legislature was as follows: ("Published March 28, 1862).

"An Act to change the name of Bad Ax county to that of Vernon.

"*The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in the Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

"Sec. 1. The name of Bad Ax county, in this State, is hereby changed to Vernon county, and by this latter name the said county shall be called and known in popular nomenclature and in law, in all places and for all purposes; and whenever, in any law of this State, and in all deeds, mortgages and public records, the words "Bad An" occur, having reference to said county of Bad Ax, (now county of Vernon) said words shall be construed and understood in the same manner as if the word "Vernon" were printed or written in lieu thereof.

"Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the 1st day of May, A. D. 1862.

"Approved March 22, 1862."

A correspondent of the Vernon County *Censor*, in writing to that paper, March 10, 1869, thinks the change of name worked a great change in the prospects of the county. He says:

"For many years, the county, of which Viroqua is the county seat, labored under a great disadvantage in consequence of her taking to herself a name that had neither meaning nor sense. Why the settlers of the county suffered the name of Bad Ax to be fastened on them cannot now be ascertained. That the name blasted the county so long as it was retained, is a fact patent to all. As soon as the name was changed to Vernon, the whole county began to flourish, and now Vernon county has no small influence in the State. She has quite an array of public men, too, whose names are well known throughout Wisconsin; such as Rusk, Priest, Purday, Graham, Terhune, Butt, Newell and others."

Yours truly Wm F Terhune

EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW COUNTY.

About the year 1859 there began a county seat war of a mild form in Crawford county. The southern portion of that county wanted it to remain at Prairie du Chien while the northerners desired to have it removed to Dagget's Knob. The result was a "secession movement" at the village of De Soto which lies in both Crawford and Vernon (then Bad Ax) counties. The denizens of this village and the country round about took it into their heads to form a new county out of the northern part of Crawford and southern part of Vernon. Could this be accomplished, then De Soto would be just the place for the county seat, of course.

Pursuant to notice, then, the citizens of the towns of Wheatland, Sterling and Franklin, in Bad Ax county, and of Freeman and Utica in Crawford county, held a meeting at the school house in Sterling, on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1861, "to consider the propriety of certain changes in the dividing line of said counties," but in reality to promote a new county movement. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bean, of Sterling, in the chair, and J. C. Kurtz, of Wheatland, secretary. The chairman, in some appropriate remarks, stated the object of the meeting. He was followed by Messrs. Crittenden, Carlyle, Ferguson, Sterling, McMinn, Cate and others; when, on motion, a committee of three, consisting of A. Carlyle, C. G. Allen and A. Crittenden, was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the wishes of the meeting. The committee submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present line dividing the counties of Crawford and Bad Ax—dividing township 11—is detrimental to the best interests of the inhabitants of the south half of said township 11, now situated in the limits of Crawford county and that the said county line should be removed to the line between townships 10 and 11.

"*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of the meeting, the pecuniary interests of a portion of Bad Ax and Crawford counties would be materially promoted by the establishment and organization of a new county, with the county seat located on the Mississippi river."

A committee of three, consisting of J. C. Beny, of Wheatland; C. B. Whiting & Co. and D. A. Bean, of Sterling, was then appointed to draft a map designating the boundary lines of the proposed new county and to a meeting when practicable "to determine on the same." But this ended the new county movement in that region.

By the year 1866, so great was felt to be the inconvenience of being so far from the county seat as were the inhabitants of the six eastern towns of the county, that they made a protracted effort to have the county divided, so that Hillsborough, Greenwood, Forest, Union, Whitestown and Stark, with adjoining towns, either on the north, east or south, as they might be able to obtain them as companions, would form a new county. Petitions were sent in to the Legislature in favor of a division. But it was soon found that nothing could be got from adjoining counties to help on the movement—nothing could be got from the north; nothing from the south; and finally the two towns to the east which had been confidently counted upon, could not be had.

But the friends of the new county were not disheartened, and at once concluded that they would form a county out of Hillsborough, Greenwood, Forest, Union, Whitestown and Stark—six towns—proposing, however, to remain attached to Vernon county for judicial purposes, so as to avoid the expense of erecting county buildings, and a bill was introduced in the Assembly at Madison for that purpose. But the principal argument against the new measure was that, if the towns remained attached to Vernon for judicial purposes, they would derive little or no benefit from a separation, as the principal necessity for it was the inconvenience of attending court so far away as Viroqua; so

the measure was strangled in its infancy, and has never since been seriously agitated.

A bill, supported by numerous petitions, was, in 1870, introduced into the Assembly by Mr. Bennett, for the erection of a new county to be called Sheridan, and to embrace the towns of Hillsborough, Greenwood, Union, Forest, Whitestown and Stark, in Vernon county; the towns of Wellington, Glendale, Clifton and Wilton, in Monroe county; the town of Wonewoc, in Juneau county, and the town of Woodland, in Sauk county. Petitions circulated in some portions of the proposed new county also called for the town of Sheldon, in Monroe county, but these received a limited circulation.

Had the bill passed, four counties would vote on the question, as all those named came within the constitutional provision. "No county with an area of 900 square miles or less, shall be divided or have any part stricken therefrom, without submitting the question to a vote of the people of the county, nor unless a majority of all the legal voters of the county voting on the question shall vote for the same." Vernon, Monroe, Juneau and Sauk all contain areas which make this constitutional provision apply to them.

In the eastern part of Vernon county the people were quite generally in favor of the measure; and it is probable, that had the scheme reached a vote, the six towns in Vernon county would have been in favor of the new county of Sheridan. But the bill did not pass even the Assembly; so the movement was strangled in its early infancy; and Vernon county of to-day (1883), is exactly, *in extent*, the Vernon county formed by the act of March 1, 1851; but in all else, how changed!

CHAPTER XII.

TERRITORIAL, STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The settlers who had located in what is now Vernon county, before Wisconsin became a State, were represented of course, as citizens of Crawford county, in the territorial council and house of representatives. We commence the record of this representation with the first year of the settlement of what afterward became Vernon county.

I.—TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATION.

Council.—Wiram Knowlton, 1845–46; Benjamin F. Manahan, 1847–48.

Representatives.—James Fisher, 1845–46; Joseph W. Furber, 1847; Henry Jackson, 1847–48.

II.—STATE REPRESENTATION.

Constitutional Conventions.

The first constitutional convention assembled at Madison on the 5th day of October, 1846, and adjourned on the 16th day of December, 1846, having framed a constitution, which was submitted to a vote of the people on the first Tuesday in April, 1847, and the same was rejected. The member of this convention from Crawford county, was Peter A. R. Brace.

The second convention assembled at Madison, on the 15th day of December, 1847, and adjourned on the 1st of February, 1848, having framed a constitution which was submitted to a vote of the people on the second Monday in March following, and the same was adopted. The convention was constituted as follows: Messrs. Samuel W. Beall, Warren Chase, Stoddard Judd, Theodore Prentiss, Garret M. Fitzgerald and Frederick S. Lovell, being the only members of the first convention who were

elected to the second; the members of the first, in almost every county, declining a re-election. The member of the second convention, Daniel G. Fenton, represented the counties of Chippewa and Crawford.

Legislatures.

(1.) *Senate.*—Third district, D. G. Fenton, 1848; James Fisher, 1849; James Fisher, 1850; Hiram A. Wright, 1851; Hiram A. Wright, 1852. Nineteenth district, Benjamin Allen, 1853; Benjamin Allen, 1854; William J. Gibson, 1855; William J. Gibson, 1856. Thirtieth district, William T. Price, 1857; William H. Tucker, 1858; William H. Tucker, 1859; B. E. Hutchinson, 1860; B. E. Hutchinson, 1861; N. S. Cate, 1862; William S. Purdy, 1863; William Ketcham, 1864; William Ketcham, 1865; Benjamin Bull, 1866. Thirty-first district, J. W. Ranney, 1867; J. W. Ranney, 1868; C. M. Butt, 1869; C. M. Butt, 1870; Angus Cameron, 1871. Fourth district, William Nelson, 1872; William Nelson, 1873; A. E. Bleekman, 1874; A. E. Bleekman, 1875; J. Henry Tate, 1876; J. Henry Tate, 1877; George W. Swain, 1878; George W. Swain, 1879; O. B. Thomas, 1880; O. B. Thomas, 1881; Van S Bennett, 1882; Van S. Bennett, 1883.

(2.) *Assembly.*—William T. Sterling, 1848; James O'Neill, 1849; William T. Sterling, 1850; William F. Price, 1851; Andrew Briggs, 1852; Hiram A. Wright, 1853; William F. Terhune, 1854; James Fisher, 1855; Andrew Briggs, 1856; Buel E. Hutchinson, 1857; James R. Savage, 1858; Thomas W. Tower, 1859; William C. McMichael, 1860; Daniel H. Johnson, 1861; Ole Johnson, and Jeremiah M. Rusk, 1862; James H. Layne and Daniel B. Priest, 1863; William H. Officer and Albert Bliss, 1864; William H. Officer and James Berry, 1865; Newton F. Carpenter and Alexander Woods, 1866; John W. Greenman and Albert Bliss, 1867; Henry Chase and Daniel B. Priest, 1868; John M. McLeez and Van S. Bennett, 1869; Reuben May and Van S. Bennett, 1870; Joseph W. Hoyt and Henry A. Chase, 1871; Reuben May and Henry A. Chase, 1872; Peter Jerman and J. Henry Tate, 1873; William Frazier and Edgar Eno, 1874; Ole Anderson and James E. Newell, 1875; John Stevenson and Timothy S. Jordan, 1876; Peter J. Dale and Henry H. Wyatt, 1877; Christian Ellefson and Allen Rusk, 1878; Jacob Eckhardt, Jr., and Roger Williams, 1879; Jacob Eckhardt, Jr., and David C. Yakey, 1880; T. O. Juve and Allen Rusk, 1881; T. O. Juve and Thomas J. Shear, 1882; Christian Ellefson and Marshall C. Nichols, 1883.

III. CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The act of Congress approved April 20, 1836, organizing the territory of Wisconsin, conferred upon the people the right to be represented in the National Congress by one delegate, to be chosen by the votes of the qualified electors of the territory. Under this authority there were elected the following

Territorial Delegates.

George W. Jones, elected Oct. 10, 1836; James D. Doty, elected Sept. 10, 1838; James D. Doty, elected Aug. 5, 1840;* Henry Dodge, elected Sept 27, 1841; Henry Dodge, elected Sept. 25, 1843; Morgan L. Martin, elected Sept. 22, 1845; John H. Tweedy, elected Sept. 6, 1847.

By the constitution adopted when the territory became a State, in 1848, two representatives in Congress were provided for by dividing the State into two congressional districts. The first district was composed of the counties of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Racine, Walworth, Rock and Green. The second district was composed of Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet, Brown, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Marquette, Sauk, Portage, Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Richland, Crawford, Chippewa, St. Croix and La Pointe. As what is now Vernon county was then a part of Crawford, of course the people therein were in the second district. Under this authority, an election was held May 8, 1848, and William Pitt Lynde was elected member of Congress for the

* Doty afterward resigned, he having been appointed Governor of the Territory by President Tyler, Sept. 13, 1841.

first district; Mason C. Darling, of Fond du Lac, for the second district. The people therefore, then living in what is now Vernon county were represented in the thirtieth Congress by Mason C. Darling. From (and including) that election there have been chosen for the various congressional districts in which Vernon county has fallen, the following

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

2d Dist.—XXXth Con. 1847-49—Mason C. Darling;
2d Dist.—XXXIst " 1849-51—Orsamus Cole;
2d Dist.—XXXIId " 1851-53—Ben C. Eastman;
2d Dist.—XXXIIId " 1853-55—Ben C. Eastman·
2d Dist.—XXXIVth " 1855-57—C. C. Washburn;
2d Dist.—XXXVth " 1857-59—C. C. Washburn;
2d Dist.—XXXVIth " 1859-61—C. C. Washburn;
2d Dist.—XXXVIIth " 1861-63—{ Luther Hanchett* / W. D. McIndoe;
6th Dist.—XXXVIIIth " 1863-65—W. D. McIndoe;
6th Dist.—XXXIXth " 1865-67—W. D. McIndoe;
6th Dist.—XLth " 1867-69—C. C. Washburn;
6th Dist.—XLIst " 1869-71—C. C. Washburn;
6th Dist.—XLIId " 1871-73—Jeremiah M. Rusk;
7th Dist.—XLIIId " 1873-75—Jeremiah M. Rusk;
7th Dist.—XLIVth " 1875-77—Jeremiah M. Rusk;
7th Dist.—XLVth " 1877-79—H. L. Humphrey;
7th Dist.—XLVIth " 1879-81—H. L. Humphrey;
7th Dist.—XLVIIth " 1881-83—H. L. Humphrey;
7th Dist.—XLVIIIth " 1883-85—G. M. Woodward;

*Died November 24, 1862.

CHAPTER XIII.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Unlike many of the western States, Wisconsin's system of county government has always been that of either the board of supervisors or commissioners. This system was brought to its present state of perfection when the territory became a State, but this system was in vogue years prior to this, the territorial counties being governed by the same system. In the winter of 1850-1 the Legislature passed an act creating the county of Bad Ax. It was set off from Crawford county, and organization of the territory so set off was authorized. The first election was held in April, 1851, at which county officers were elected.

It is to be presumed that the first meeting of the board of supervisors was held shortly after the April election; but the records do not throw any light upon it. According to the record the first meeting of the board of supervisors was held on the 11th of November, 1851, at Viroqua. The only business transacted was to canvass the votes cast at the November election of 1851. The following officers were declared elected: County clerk, William C. McMichael; sheriff, James M. Bailey; register of deeds, Jacob Higgins; district attorney, Lorenzo A. Pierce; coroner, Clement Spaulding; surveyor, Samuel McMichael; assemblyman, Andrew Briggs. The records were signed by O. Wisel, clerk of board, and W. F. Terhune, deputy.

On the 11th of November, 1851, the next meeting of the board of supervisors was held at the house of Moses Decker. At this time taxes were levied; the whole valuation of the county being $32,897.

One month later another meeting of the board was held, at which the following bills against the county were allowed: W. F. Terhune, services as deputy clerk, $24.86; Orrin Wisel, services as clerk, $5.57; Oliver Langdon justice of the peace, $3.87; James M. Bailey, deputy sheriff, $16.22; Westfall Decker, assisting sheriff in arrest, $2; Rufus Gillett, sheriff, $25.61; L. A. Pierce, district attorney, $39—donated to county; Abraham Cyfert, $4.50; Abraham Stiles, supervisor, $9.70; Moses

Decker, services of his son Thomas, 75 cents; Eldad Inman, constable, $3; Peter La Morse, supervisor, $3. It was ordered that the office of the clerk of circuit court be kept at the house of William F. Terhune until further notice.

At this time the entire county was organized as one civil town. From the records, it would appear that the board of town trustees also composed the board of county supervisors, and frequently the board would meet as town trustees, then organize themselves into the board of supervisors and proceed to the transaction of county business. The records do not disclose the names of the members, but from the bills allowed it would appear that Abraham Stiles and Peter La Morse were members of the board in 1851.

William C. McMichael succeeded Orrin Wisel as clerk.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors held on the 31st of July, 1852, it was ordered that the clerk of the board "post up notices for letting the contract for building a room for the county offices to be kept in; also for painting the outside of the court house, with lime mortar, and further, that the 14th of August, next, be set for hearing proposals." In August the contract for building was let to Orrin Wisel, for $65; that of painting the outside of the court house with "lime mortar" was let to Moses Decker for $7.50.

At the same session the record states that "Thomas J. De Frees be, and is hereby appointed a commissioner, to survey and sub-divide into a town plat, the land which was donated by Moses Decker, Solomon Decker and Isaac Decker to Bad Ax county."

On the 12th of November, 1852, the board examined the assessment rolls and ascertained that the aggregate valuation of real and personal property in the county was $64,432.

At this session Edmund Strong presented his resignation as county treasurer and John Longley was appointed to fill the vacancy.

On the 29th of March, 1853, the board of supervisors divided the county into four townships named respectively: Bergen, Jefferson, Bad Ax and Kickapoo. Up to this time the whole county had constituted one township. This matter is treated at length in another chapter.

This increased the board of supervisors to four, each civil town being entitled to one representative in the county board.

In the spring of 1853, the name of Thomas J. De Frees appears signing the records as chairman of the board, although it is not disclosed when he was chosen as such.

A regular meeting of the board was held on the 3d of May, 1853, at which Andrew Briggs was chosen chairman of the board upon motion of William H. Austin. The minutes of this meeting were signed by Andrew Briggs, chairman, W. H. Austin and Orin Caulkins.

On the 29th of November, 1853, the county board divided the town of Bad Ax, and created that of Farwell.

At the same session they granted Orrin Wisel a license to keep and maintain a toll bridge for ten years across the Kickapoo river, on section 8, township 11, range 3. The toll rates were fixed as follows: Footman, three cents; horse and rider, ten cents; each additional horse, mule or ass, five cents; two horses and wagon, twenty-five cents; horse and buggy, fifteen cents; yoke of oxen and wagon, thirty-five cents; for each additional yoke of cattle, ten cents.

At the regular May session, 1854, the board organized by the election of Andrew Briggs as chairman for the ensuing year. The board was composed of Andrew Briggs, town of Bad Ax; Isaac Spencer, Jefferson; T. J. De Frees, Viroqua; Benjamin Hill, Kickapoo, and John Warner, Bergen.

One of the official acts at this session was the changing the name of the town of Farwell to that of Viroqua.

The board also expressed themselves in favor of building a court house for the county

during 1854, and suggested 30x38 feet, two stories high as the size. T. J. De Frees drew plans and specifications for the building and proposals were advertised for.

At the July session, 1854, the proposal of Samuel McMichael to build the court house for $2,100 was accepted.

A special session of the board was held on the 9th of March, 1855, at which the town of Viroqua was divided, and the towns of Forest and Hillsborough were created. A petition from the citizens of township 13 north, of range 1 east, to be set off as a civil town, was rejected.

On the 13th of November, 1855, the board of supervisors of "Bad Ax" county convened in annual session, and organized by the election of William H. Goode as chairman for the ensuing year. The board was composed of the following named gentlemen representing the various towns in the county. Andrew Briggs, Bad Ax; W. H. Goode, Viroqua; Isaac Spencer, Jefferson; William H. Austin, Kickapoo; Joseph N. Martin, Hillsborough; John M. McLees, Bergen.

At this session, the former resolution of the board creating the town of Forest was repealed, and the town of Union was created embracing the territory of township 13, ranges 1 and 2 west. Forest was again created embracing the territory of township 14, ranges 1 and 2 west. At the same session the towns of Webster, Christiana, Greenwood and Harmony were created. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of township 12, range 5, were detached from the town of Bad Ax and annexed to Jefferson.

At the March session, 1856, James W. Chaney succeeded Andrew Briggs as supervisor from the town of Bad Ax.

On the 5th of September, 1856, the board of supervisors convened for the regular fall term. William A. Bullard was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The record states that the board was composed of the following gentlemen:

W. A. Bullard, Viroqua; James M. Bailey, Bad Ax; J. R. Savage, Jefferson; Edmund Klopfleisch, Hillsborough; Uriah Gregory, Greenwood; Ransom Bennett, Harmony; E. Bursett, Christiana; O. Wisel, Kickapoo; J. Allen, Webster; G. White, Forest; Josiah Newburn, Union; R. Bennett, Bergen.

At this session the board ordered that the old court house be "advertised for sale, and sold to the highest bidder."

Samuel McMichael was appointed county surveyor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William F. Beavers.

There seems to have been quite a change in the the *personnel* of the board at the November term, 1856: Engelbrit Bjorseth appeared from Christiana; Giles White from Forest; and R. S. McMichael from Harmony:

For the first time the question of what should be done with the county poor came to the notice of the board at the November term, 1856, and it was declared that all distinction be abolished between county and town poor. Three county superintendents of the poor were elected, who were to hold their offices three years. They were Isaac Williams, Robert Adams and T. J. DeFrees. It was also ordered that a tax of two mills on the dollar, amounting to $1876.76 be levied for the purpose of purchasing a poor farm and erecting suitable buildings.

At the December session, 1856, one new supervisor took his seat—James Marker, from Jefferson,

The superintendents of poor were authorized to purchase a poor farm. It was to be improved, and cost not more than $5,000.

At the March session, in 1857, R. S. McMichael was chosen chairman of the board to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of William A. Bullard, the former chairman, from the town of Viroqua, which he had been elected to represent.

At the same time two petitions were presented for the division of the town of Bad Ax and the

creation of two new civil towns ; one was from William S. Purdy et. al.; the other from E. B. Houghton, et. al. The chairman appointed Aaron White, of Viroqua, J. R. Savage, of Jefferson, and James Allen, of Webster, a committee to investigate, and they reported in favor of granting the Purdy petition. Accordingly the new town of Sterling was created and ordered organized. The boundaries of the towns of Bad Ax, Jefferson and Viroqua, were all changed somewhat ; the new civil towns of Wheatland, Whitestown and Masterson were created, and the name of the town of Bad Ax was changed to "Lockhaven," at the same session. Wheatland, White and Masterson (now Clinton) was organized at the same session.

The regular fall session of the board of supervisors, for 1857, convened at Viroqua on the 24th of August. The organization of the board was effected by the election of Aaron White, of Viroqua, as chairman for the ensuing year. The following named gentleman constituted the board:

Aaron White, Viroqua; James Berry, Jefferson; R. S. McMichael, Harmony; J.W.Chaney, Bergen; Adam Carlisle, Wheatland; James Allen, Webster; W. H. Austin, Kickapoo; A. B. Donaldson, Sterling; Nelson Cady, Lock Haven; Charles A. Hunt, Masterton; David Wilt, Christiana; Giles White, Whitestown; Jacob Noffseniger, Forest; George Sheldon, Hillsborough; Uriah Gregory, Greenwood; Josiah Newburn, Union.

Among the first acts of the board at this session was to change the name of the town of Lock Haven to Franklin. Later in the session the name of the town of Masterton was changed to Clinton.

On the 26th of August, 1857, the board authorized the county clerk to advertise for plans and specifications for a jail, which was to cost not more than $4,000 and not less that $1,500.

A bounty of $3 was offered for every wolf killed within the county.

At the annual meeting of the board in November, 1857, Joel T. Shaw presented his credentials and took his seat as member from the town of Wheatland.

At the same session a petition for the division of the town of Kickapoo, from Chancey W. Lawton and others, was laid upon the table. The towns of Hamburg and Coon were created at the same session.

In December, 1857, the new town of Liberty was created, the territory being set off from the town of Viroqua.

At the same time the board ordered that the court house be insured for at least $1,500.

At the June session, in 1858, the board met on the 7th and proceeded to organize for the ensuing year, by the election of Alson Keeler, of Viroqua, as chairman. The following members elect appeared and qualified, as supervisors from their respective towns: Levi Pierson, of Hillsborough; C. A. Hunt, of Clinton; Allen Rusk, of Liberty; George Spurrier, of Kickapoo; Alson Keeler, of Viroqua; Jones P. Sawyer, of Franklin; W. T. McConnell, of Jefferson; C. G. Allen, of Sterling; O. Chaney, of Hamburg; Levi Shorey, of Bergen.

A set of rules were adopted at this session, many of which are still in force, having been adopted in each successive year, since that time. The committee, which drafted them, was composed of Adam Carlisle, C. A. Hunt and Uriah Gregory.

Nothing having been done regarding the building of a jail for the county, since their former resolution regarding it, the board on the second day of the session resolved that a jail be built at a cost of $1,500. An effort was made to raise the amount to $2,500, but the motion was out-voted. W. T. McConnell, Charles A. Hunt and A. Keeler, were appointed a commit tee to attend to building the jail.

The sum of $500 was appropriated for the purpose of building a fire proof vault for the safe keeping of the county records.

The annual fall meeting of the county board, began on the 9th of November, 1858, pursuant to law. At this time the board of supervisors was composed of the following gentlemen, representing the various towns in the county: Uriah Gregory, Greenwood; J. B. Nofsinger, Forest; Josiah Newburn, Union; S. H. Seamon. Hillsborough; Giles White, Whitestown; Charles A. Hunt, Clinton; James Allen, Webster; Allen Rusk, Liberty; George Spurier, Kickapoo; David Wilt, Christiana; Alson Keeler, Viroqua; Jonas P. Sawyer, Franklin; W. T. McConnell, Jefferson; C. G. Allen, Sterling; John T. Brinkmann, Hamburg; R. S. McMichael, Harmony; Adam Carlisle, Wheatland; Levi Shorey, Bergen.

After allowing a great many bills and destroying several hundred county orders, upon motion of W. T. McConnell, the board proceeded as a committee of the whole to examine the jail. It was then resolved that they "do accept the county jail as now completed by the contractor, Mr. Fretwell, agreeable to his contract, and that a county order do issue for the sum of $2,000 to said Fretwell, and that one additional sum of $60 be allowed and paid said Fretwell, for extra work on said contract."

From the report of the county treasurer, which was presented to the board at this session, it appears that the total indebtedness of the county was $6,641; total assets, $4,044; balance against the county, $2,596.

On the last day of the session a petition was presented from citizens in the town of Union, asking that congressional township 13, range 2 west, be set off and organized as a civil town. It was granted, and the name of Stark was bestowed upon it. At the same time a petition was presented from citizens in the town of Bergen, asking that their town be divided.

A report presented by Isaac Williams and Thomas J. DeFrees, superintendents of the poor, stated that there was $569.25 worth of personal property upon the county poor farm; that there was twenty-three acres broke; that the average number of paupers upon the place was twelve.

It appears that the town of Coon did not take advantage of the act of the board, passed in November, 1857, creating and authorizing the organization of that town. On the 13th of November, 1858, it was resolved as follows:

"That, whereas, the town of Coon has failed and neglected to organize under a resolution of this board, passed at its last annual meeting, setting off said town from Jefferson, by not electing officers pursuant to the statute, in such cases made and provided; therefore, resolved, that this board issue a warrant to the assessor and treasurer of the town of Christiana, (that being the town next adjoining Coon), requiring them to assess and collect respectively the quota of tax due from said town of Coon. * * * That William F. Terhune, Esq., be employed as attorney and counsel in the matter of collecting such tax."

It seems that at this time the board began to feel nervous over the county's finances, and that the famous crash of 1857 was affecting this region, as they passed a resolution requiring the county treasurer to receive nothing in payment of taxes, save gold and silver.

At the June session, 1859, the *personnel* of the board was but little changed from the preceding November: Levi Pearson took his seat as member from Hillsborough; succeeding S. H. Seamon.

At this session J. P. Sawyer presented a resolution to the effect that the county treasurer be authorized to receive county orders in the payment of county tax, but after a lengthy discussion the resolution was rejected.

On the 9th of March, 1859, Adam Carlisle presented the following bill, to modify what had formerly been resolved concerning taxes, which was adopted:

"SEC. 1. — That the county treasurer is hereby authorized to receive county orders for delinquent county tax up to the time of the

sales of the lands returned delinquent for the taxes of the year 1858.

"SEC. 2.—The county treasurer is further authorized to take town orders for delinquent town tax up to that time, provided, the town orders offered for payment of taxes shall be applied to lands within the town issuing the same.

"SEC. 3.—The treasurer is further directed and required to receive only gold and silver, or currency of the State of Wisconsin, for all delinquent State, school, highway, district school and other local taxes.

"SEC. 4.—The county treasurer is further directed to keep separate and disburse to the several towns the taxes paid on the lands in each town; so that each town shall receive its quota of taxes paid on the lands included in the same."

At the same session a license was granted to Cyrus F. and Ransom P. Gillett, to maintain and operate, for ten years, a ferry across the Mississippi river, in township 12, range 7.

On the 11th of July, 1859, the board met pursuant to law, and organized by the election of A. Carlysle as chairman for the ensuing year. The board was composed of the following gentlemen: John Michelet, Christiana; Peter Olson, Coon; J. B. Nofsinger, Forest; E. Klopfleisch, Hillsborough; R. S. McMichael, Harmony; Elisha Page, Bergen; J. Newburn, Union; George Waltz, Stark; A. Carlysle, Wheatland; Giles White, Whitestown; C. A. Hunt, Clinton; J. H. Layne, Franklin; J. Waddell, Greenwood; J. T. Brinkmann, Hamburg; W. H. Officer, Jefferson; S. Graham, Liberty; Joseph Harris, Kickapoo; W. S. Purdy, Sterling; James Allen, Webster; Thomas Fretwell, Viroqua; Joseph O. Parker, Stark.

At the November session in 1859, the matter of electing superintendents of the poor came before the board, and resulted in the choice of Thomas J. DeFrees for one year; Thomas Fretwell for two years, and John M. McLees for three years. The boundaries of the towns of Bergen, Wheatland and Hamburg were materially altered at this session.

A special session of the board was held in June, 1860, to take into consideration the swamp lands donated to the county by the Legislature. Thomas Fretwell, of Viroqua, was appointed commissioner to investigate, locate and detetermine as near as practicable the amount and value of such lands. At this session Adam Carlysle, of Wheatland, was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year.

Pursuant to law the board of supervisors convened for their regular session on the 13th of November, 1860. The former chairman, Adam Carlysle, had removed from the county, leaving the board without a chairman. This vacancy was filled by the election of Charles A. Hunt, of Clinton. The members at this time were: Ransom Bennett, Bergen; John Michelet, Christiana; Charles A. Hunt, Clinton; Peter Oleson, Coon; James H. Layne, Franklin; William C. Steltling, Forest; Joseph M. Waddell, Greenwood; Edward Klopfleisch, Hillsborough; John T. Brinkmann, Hamburg; Hartman Allen, Harmony; W. H. Officer, Jefferson; Joseph Harris, Kickapoo; Samuel Graham, Liberty; Alexander Latshaw, Sterling; James O. Parker, Stark; C. W. Adams, Union; Thomas Fretwell, Viroqua; G. G. Van Wagner, Wheatland; James Allen, Webster; Giles White, Whitestown.

At this session Thomas Fretwell, who had been appointed agent to investigate the swamp land matter, reported that he had received no maps or charts of the land, and that he had learned nothing of importance concerning the same. The chairman then appointed a committee, consisting of Alexander Latshaw, G. G. Van Wagner, C. W. Adams and Hartwell Allen, to investigate the matters relating to the land grant.

Under the date of Nov. 16, 1860, appears the following entry, which explains itself:

"*Whereas*, The number of Jury cases to be tried at any term of the circuit court of Bad

Ax county is in general but small; therefore, *resolved*, that the Hon. George Gale, judge of the sixth judicial circuit, be memorialized, and he is hereby memorialized, to order that the clerk of the circuit court of Bad Ax county draw but sixteen names of persons to serve as petit jurors at said court, and that the order remain in force until otherwise ordered."

At the same session of the board the following memorial to the Legislature was adopted:

"The memorial of the board of supervisors of Bad Ax county respectfully shows that the present mode of transacting county business by means of a county board of supervisors, as is now done throughout the State, is burdensome to the people and cumbersome in its operations, and we would therefore ask that the present system of governing the counties be abolished, and that known as the commissioner system, as now in use in the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, be adopted."

On the 20th of November, 1860, another memorial to the Legislature was drawn and adopted by the board. This one read as follows:

"The memorial of the board of supervisors of Bad Ax county would respectfully show to your honorable body that it would be much to the advantage of this county to have the south half of township 11, ranges 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, now in Crawford county, attached to the county of Bad Ax, to become a part thereof for all purposes, the same as any other portion of said county of Bad Ax."

On the 8th of July, 1861, the board of supervisors met for the purpose of forming the commissioner districts and equalizing the assessments of the county. Charles A. Hunt, of Clinton, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. Upon calling the roll the board was found to be composed of the following gentlemen from the various towns in the county:

John Warner, Bergen; John Michelet, Christiana; C. A. Hunt, Clinton; Peter Olson, Coon; James H. Layne, Franklin; W. C. Stelting, Forest; J. M. Waddell, Greenwood; Edward Klopfleisch, Hillsborough; R. S. McMichael, Harmony; J. T. Brinkmann, Hamburg; W. H. Officer, Jefferson; Joseph Harris, Kickapoo; Samuel Graham, Liberty; I. O. Parker, Stark; Lewis Sterling, Sterling; Hugh Kerr, Union; Thomas Fretwell, Viroqua; C. B. Whiting, Wheatland; Thomas S. Curtis, Webster; W. W. Joseph, Whitestown.

After a great deal of discussion, wrangling and receiving the reports of a number of committees, the board agreed upon a plan for the division of the county into commissioner's districts as follows:

District No. 1 to comprise the towns of Hillsborough, Greenwood, Union, Forest, Whitestown, Stark, Clinton, Webster and Liberty.

District No. 2 to comprise the towns of Kickapoo, Viroqua, Franklin, Sterling and Wheatland.

District No. 3 to comprise the towns of Christiana, Coon, Hamburg, Bergen, Harmony and Jefferson.

It seems that at this session the message of the President in relation to the opening war measures was brought before the board. The only action taken regarding the matter is revealed by the following entry upon the records of the board;

"At this time a message from the President of the United States arrived, and the business of the meeting was suspended while it was read aloud to the members of the board by Samuel Graham, and received the applause of the board by three hearty cheers."

At the annual November session, 1861, E. A. Stark took his seat as the member from Viroqua succeeding Mr. Fretwell.

On the first day of the session the board created a new town under the name of Genoa. It was also ordered that sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the north half of sections 9, 10, 11 and 12 in township 12, range 6, be detached from the town of Wheatland and attached to Harmony. And it was further ordered that sections 13, 14, 15

and 16, and the south half of sections 9, 10, 11 and 12 of township 12, range 6 west, be detached from the town of Wheatland and attached to the town of Sterling. The committee recommending these changes was composed of John T. Brinkmann, Joseph M. Waddell and J. O. Parker.

On the 16th of November, 1861, the board passed the first resolution in the shape of a war measure. It was drawn up by C. B. Whiting and read as follows:

"WHEREAS, many of the citizens of this county have gone to the war, leaving families only partially provided for, and we, believing that if some provision be made by this board for the support of such families, that many more will enlist; and whereas, many of the counties in this State have come up nobly to the relief of such families, we deem it due to Bad Ax county not to be behind in this patriotic work; in consideration of which the board of supervisors, do order and determine, that there be an appropriation made of $1,000 to be distributed as follows: Any volunteer who has enlisted, or who shall hereafter enlist in the service of the United States, leaving a family of children under twelve years of age, the wife or head of such family, by making an affidavit before some justice of the peace, of the fact, and presenting the same with the certificate of the chairman of the town where the family resides, that they are actually needy, to the county treasurer, shall receive $1 per month for each child under the above mentioned age. The affidavit shall also contain the number of children and age of each."

At the same session the salary of the county superintendent of schools was fixed at $400 per annum.

On the 20th of November, it being made to appear that an effort was being made to raise a company of volunteers, and as the county, with her large population, had the credit of only one company, it was resolved that the members of the board act as a committee in their respective towns to give encouragement and assistance to the proposed company, and to open their residences to the use of all recruiting officers and those engaged in the work free of charge. The resolution setting forth these sentiments was drawn up and presented to the board by R. S. McMichael.

The closing entry regarding the November session, 1861, reads as follows:

"The board having finished the business of the last session to be held under the present system of county government, and having diligently attended to the interests of the people of the county during a most laborious session of eight days, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, 1861, adjourned *sine die*."

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

As will be inferred, the system of county government throughout the State of Wisconsin had undergone a revolution. The Legislature, during the winter of 1860–61 had passed an act abolishing the board of supervisors and creating the board of county commissioners. Under the former system the county board was composed of one member from each civil town in the county, while under the new system the board consisted of three commissioners. The county had been divided into three districts (as has been stated), and each was entitled to one commissioner. The election for members of the board occurred in the fall of 1862. The creating act provided that the annual meetings should be held on the second Monday in January, of each year.

Pursuant to law, the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, began on the 13th of January, 1862. The members were John W. Allen, representing the first district; C. G. Allen, the second; and John T. Brinkmann, the third. Organization was permanently effected by the election of John T. Brinkmann, as chairman for the ensuing year.

From and after the June session, 1862, the records read "Vernon county," instead of "Bad Ax county."

On the 20th of November, 1862, the board ordered and determined that the wife of every volunteer and drafted man, from Vernon county in the service of the government, or State, be entitled to draw from the county treasurer $2 per month from and after Jan. 1, 1863, and also $1 per month for each child under the age of twelve years.

On the 22d of December, 1862, Cyrus G. Allen, of Sterling, was elected chairman of the board for the ensuing year.

At this session war matters largely occupied the attention of the board. It was ordered that: "WHEREAS, there had been appropriated the sum of $2,500 for the benefit of the families of volunteers and drafted men, the resolution in relation to the distribution of that fund be amended so as to give to the families of deceased soldiers the benefit of the same, families of commissioned officers excepted." This order was modified somewhat, however, by a resolution, to the effect that "families of deceased soldiers, who had already received the $1 bounty promised, or pension, from the United States, and also the families of discharged soldiers were not to share in the distribution of the fund."

Another order of importance made at this session was to authorize the issue of county orders to the amount of $4,000 in denominations from five cents up to three dollars.

At the November session, 1863, Herman Greve was elected commissioner of the poor to succeed Hartwell Allen.

On the 19th of the same month, the sum of $1,000 was appropriated to aid the families of volunteers.

A special meeting of the board was held in January, 1864. The members at this time were: Charles Searing, from the first district; C. G. Allen, from the second district, and John Michelet, from the third district. C. G. Allen was elected chairman of the board for the ensuing year.

In November, 1864, the board authorized Sheriff Clayton E. Rogers to sell a number of stolen horses which had been captured from horse-thieves.

W. H. Goode was elected to fill a vacancy in the board of commissioners of poor, occasioned by the absence of Herman Greve. E. A. Stark was re-elected a member of the board.

"Elijah Powell, of Viroqua, having been appointed and commissioned by the governor to serve as supervisor from the second district in place of C. G. Allen, who had removed from the State in 1864, received the appointment on the last day of the session and came in and took his seat with the board, in time to assist for one day only."

At a special session of the board in May, 1866, the resignation of James Lowrie, county treasurer, was received and Col. C. M. Butt was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The supervisors in 1866 were John Michelet, chairman, Hugh McDill and C. M. Carr. The latter was appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy in the board from the first district.

At a session on the 1st of January, 1867, C. W. Lawton, member-elect from the first district, succeeding Mr. Carr, qualified and took his seat.

In April, 1867, it was decided to submit to the qualified electors of the county the question of abolishing the county's system of supporting the poor.

In July, 1867, by order of the board, the north half of township 14, range 7 west, was detached from the town of Hamburg and attached to Bergen.

At the October session, 1867, the orders of the board granting bounties for wild cat and wolf scalps were repealed.

In November, of the same year, James H. Layne was appointed poor commissioner to succeed E. A. Stark.

In 1868 Willard Morley succeeded Mr. McDill as member of the board.

On the 14th of November, 1868, the annual salaries of various county officers were fixed as follows: County treasurer, $1,000; county clerk, $1,000; superintendent, $800; county judge, $500; district attorney, $400.

On the 2d of January, 1869, the bounty for killing wolves and wild cats was re-established, the rate fixed being $5 for each wolf and $2.50 for each wild cat killed.

In 1869 the board consisted of Willard Morley, chairman; George W. Swain and B. F. Harry.

In November, 1869, James E. Newell was appointed commissioner of the poor to succeed Elijah Powell. Thus the board of commissioners was made to consist of J. H. Layne, Enoch Enochson and J. E. Newell.

In January, 1870, Willard Morley was re-elected chairman of the board for the ensuing year.

SUPERVISORS AGAIN.

During the year 1868 the Legislature passed an act changing again the system of county government throughout Wisconsin. This act abolished the commissioner system, or board of three, and reinstated the old system of a board made up of one member from each civil town and incorporated village. This law is still in force.

The first meeting of the board under the new dispensation was held in the court house at Viroqua, in May, 1870. J. W. Greenman, of Genoa, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The board consisted of the following named gentlemen, representing the various towns and villages:

Henry Sharp, Bergen; E. C. Jager, Christiana; Ole Anderson, Coon; W. C. Stelting, Forest; William Clawater, Franklin; J. W. Greenman, Genoa; Jesse Warner, Harmony; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; J. R. Joseph, Liberty; Joseph Fulmer, Stark; R. W. Jordan, Sterling; Ralph Hall, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, Village of Viroqua; C. C. Bennett, Webster; J. C. Davis, Wheatland; Giles White, Whitestown.

Nothing of especial interest was transacted during this year, almost all the time being spent in attending to road business.

The annual meeting for 1871 began on the 14th of November. J. W. Greenman was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following members were present:

Levi Shorey, Bergen; John Michelet, Christiana; Hans Nelson Coon; J. Conaway, Clinton; W. C. Stelting, Forest; F. K. Van Wagner, Franklin; J. W. Greenman, Genoa; Martin Rodgers, Greenwood; A. J. Wiard, Harmony; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; J. Manhart, Hillsborough; Joseph Harris, Kickapoo; Allen Rusk, Liberty; J. O. Parker, Stark; R. W. Jordan, Sterling; G. S. Jordan, Union; Ralph Hall, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, village of Viroqua; Simeon Adams, Webster; Giles White, Whitestown; Alexander Latshaw, Wheatland.

At this session the supervisors abolished the board of commissioners of the poor, and resolved that hereafter the duties of that board should be performed by a superintendent of the poor, who should be annually elected by the board of supervisors. It was further provided that the superintendent should receive $2 per day for his services. After these resolutions had been adopted, D. A. Barnard was elected superintendent of the poor for the ensuing year.

Gardner & Wareham was granted a license to operate a ferry boat from DeSoto to Lansing, Iowa.

The taxes levied at this session for the ensuing year, were as follows: For county purposes, $18,919.88; for State purposes, $8,029.24; for school purposes, $3,783.97.

The sum of $4,000 was appropriated out of the general fund of the county for the support of the poor during the ensuing year.

The annual meeting of the board for 1872 was held in November. J. W. Greenman, of Genoa, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following members answered to their names upon the roll being called: Thomas Kingston, John Michelet, Ole Anderson, B. F.

Harry, J. W. Greenman, Martin Rodgers, William Webster, J. T. Brinkmann, Joseph Manhart, D. H. Pulver, N. W. Nelson, T. S .Jordan, Simeon Adams, Van S. Bennett, Elijah Tilton, Allen Rusk, William Clawater, J. S. Dickson, Peter Jerman and T. C. Ankeny.

A report from D. A. Barnard, superintendent of the county poor, revealed some interesting facts regarding the poor farm. The following is an extract from the report:

"There has been furnished at the county house during the year, 988 weeks of board, at an expense of $1,270.02, embracing provisions, clothing, bedding, fuel, furniture, lights, medicines, medical attendance, and salary of steward and supervision—a cost of $66.84 for each pauper a year, or $1.27 for each pauper per week. Of the number remaining at the county house at this date, (Nov. 1, 1872) ten are idiotic, two blind, one insane and four, the remainder, are old, infirm, or otherwise incapable of self support. The whole number receiving aid from the county, outside the county house, during the year, was 102, at an expense of $1,321.02. The whole number receiving aid outside the county house at the expense of the county at date of this report is twenty; of this number three are insane, two are idiotic, five over eighty years of age, seven under six years, and three are otherwise incapable of self support."

D. A. Barnard was re-elected superintendent of the poor.

The salary of the county judge was fixed at $1,000 per annum; that of county treasurer, at $1,000; county clerk, $1,200; district attorney, $400; clerk of court, $400 and fees; superintendent of poor $2 per day for each day worked, and ten cents per mile for each mile traveled; superintendent of schools $4 per day, not to exceed $920.

An order was passed granting a bounty of $1.50 for each fox killed in the county.

The taxes levied for the ensuing year were as follows: For county purposes, $14,934.39; for State purposes, $11,281.78; for school purposes, $3,649.65.

The long session closed by the board tendering a vote of thanks to chairman J. W. Greenman and county clerk John R. Casson.

The board of supervisors convened for the annual session of 1873, on Tuesday, November 11. Van S. Bennett, of Rockton, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following members were present:

Ole Anderson, Philip Adams, Van S. Bennett, Wm. Clawater, J. S. Dickson, J. W. Greenman, C. L. Ingersoll, Peter Johnson, G S. Jordan, John Michelet, Joseph Manhart, Peter McIntire, R. S. McMichael, J. A. Newman, M. W. Nelson, Martin Rodgers, Ellis Reed, Henry Sharp, W. C. Stelting, J. H. Smith, E. A. Stark and William Webster.

At this session D. A. Barnard, superintendent of county poor, made his second annual report. From it the following facts are gleaned: The number of inmates at the county house at date of last report was seventeen; number admitted during the year, twenty-two; total number at county house during the year, thirty-nine; two had died; two sent to the hospital; four children were put out; four otherwise discharged; twenty-seven remained at the county house; the average number there during the year was twenty-two. All this was at a total cost yearly per capita of $63.57, or a weekly cost per capita of $1.22. The whole number receiving aid from the county outside the county house was 105, at a total cost of $1,122.52. Of this number, four were insane, and three idiotic. Of the twenty-seven in the county house, Nov. 1, 1873, nine were idiotic, one a cripple for life; one insane; two blind; four over seventy years of age; five under seven, and the balance are otherwise incapable of self-support. Total value of farm income and on hand, $1,747. D. A. Barnard was re-elected as superintendent of the poor.

Taxes were levied at this session of the board as follows: For county purposes, $10,-

000; for State purposes, $10,176.25; for school purposes, $3,967.51.

The board resolved that all the territory belonging to the town of Genoa, lying on the south side of the south fork, and the main stream of the Bad Ax creek be taken from Genoa and attached to Wheatland. This, however, was limited by the proviso that the question be submitted to the people of Genoa, at the next election, and in case a majority were in favor of the division it should take effect April 15, 1874, but it seems the proposition was rejected, as the change was never made.

The annual session for 1874 convened on the 10th of November. Hon. W. F. Terhune was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen represented the various towns in the county: Henry Sharp, Bergen; John Michelet, Christiana; Anton Von Ruden, Coon; H. W. Knapp, Clinton; W. C. Stelting, Forest; John Fopper, Genoa; Martin Rodgers, Greenwood; Peter Johnson, Hamburg; William Webster, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; William Frazier, Jefferson; George Spurrier, Kickapoo; J. H. Smith, Liberty; Ely McVey, Stark; P. McIntyre, Sterling; T. S. Jordan, Union; J. E. Newell, Viroqua; W. F. Terhune, Village of Viroqua; Philip Adams, Webster; David Wilt, Wheatland; Henry O'Connell, Whitestown; P. McManny, Franklin.

D. A. Barnard was re-elected superintendent of the poor for the ensuing year.

The board made the following apportionment of taxes for 1874: For State purposes, $8,195.76; for county purposes, $13,025; for county school purposes, $3,513. The total assessed valuation of the county was $3,721,583.

The long session closed by giving a vote of thanks to Chairman Terhune.

The session for 1875 began on the 9th of November. W. F. Terhune was re-elected chairman. The roll being called, the following members answered to their names: C. C. Bennett, J. T. Brinkmann, Jacob Eckhardt, Edgar Eno, William Frazier, M. Hinkst, T. S. Jordan, H. W. Knapp, W. L. Marshall, John Michelet, James McDonough, Eli McVey, P. McIntyre, Henry Oakes, Henry O'Connell, A. Von Ruden, Henry Sharp, John H. Smith, W. F. Terhune, Elijah Tilton, Roger Williams and William Webster.

D. A. Barnard was again elected superintendent of the poor.

At this session a resolution was passed to the effect that the county would pay an additional bounty of $5 per head for full grown wolves killed, making the bounty $10.

The taxes for the year were apportioned as follows: For State purposes, $9,150.09; for county purposes, $15,613.30; for county school purposes, $3,760. The total assessed valuation of the county at that time was $3,903,325.

A special session of the board was held in June, 1876. The members were all present. William Frazier was elected chairman.

On the 14th of November the board met for the annual session of 1876. William Frazier, of Enterprise, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following comprises a list of the members of the board for this year: Goodman Olson, Bergen; C. H. Ballsrud, Christiana; H.W. Knapp, Clinton; Anton VonRuden, Coon; W. C. Stelting, Forest; Christian Ellefson, Franklin; F. A. Wallar, Genoa; Mathias Hansberry, Greenwood; John T. Brinkmann, Hamburg; Simon Clauson, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; William Frazier, Jefferson; Joseph Harris, Kickapoo; Stanley Stout, Liberty; A. W. De Jean, Stark; A. D. Chase, Sterling; T. S. Jordan, Union; Elijah Tilton, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, Village of Viroqua; John Snyder, Webster; Jacob Eckhardt, Jr., Wheatland; Henry O'Connell, Whitestown.

At this session all orders previously passed by the board in relation to wolf, wild-cat and fox bounties were repealed.

The salaries of the various county officers were fixed as follows: County clerk $800 per annum; county treasurer, $800; district attorney $300; superintendent of poor, $2 per day,

and eight cents per mile; superintendent of schools, $3 per day, (not to exceed 267 days) and $50.

D. A. Barnard was re-elected superintendent of the poor. The board apportioned the taxes as follows: For State purposes, $10,186.09; for county purposes, $17,138.92; for county school purposes, $3,768. The total assessed valuation of the county for that year was $3,808,651.

The annual session for 1877 began on the 13th day of November, 1877, and continued until the 21st. N. McKie, of Viroqua, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The members of the board were as follows: Goodman Olson. Bergen; Jeremiah Conway, Clinton; C. H. Ballsrud, Christiana; Ole Anderson, Coon; W. C. Stelting, Forest; Christian Ellefson, Franklin; E. L. Oakes, Genoa; M. Hansberry, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; Simon Clauson, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; William Smith, Jefferson; C. E. Smith, Kickapoo; Stanley Stout, Liberty; H. H. Wyatt, Stark; A. D. Chase, Sterling; T. S. Jordan, Union; E. Tilton, Viroqua; N. McKie, Village of Viroqua; John Snyder, Webster; Erastus Cilley, Wheatland; Henry O'Connell, Whitestown.

At this session an order was passed granting a bounty of $3 on each wolf killed in the county, and $1 for foxes.

D. A. Barnard was re-elected to the office of superintendent of the poor.

Taxes were levied for the year 1877 as follows: For State purposes, $8,862.74; for county purposes, $16,997.26; for county school purposes, $3,845.50 The total assessed valuation of the county was, $3,777,170.

The board of supervisors met for the annual session of 1878 on the 12th of November. Van S. Bennett, of Whitestown, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The board consisted of the following members: Goodman Olson, Bergen; Jeremiah Conaway, Clinton; John Michelet, Christiana; Ole Anderson, Coon; R. S. Sherman, Forest; Christian Ellefson, Franklin; E. L. Oakes, Genoa; M. H. Fitzpatrick, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; J. M. McLees, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; William Smith, Jefferson; Irvin Fox, Kickapoo; Allen Rusk, Liberty; A. W. DeJean, Stark; Joseph Morgan, Sterling; T. S. Jordan, Union; E. Powell, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, Village of Viroqua; John Snyder, Webster; D. H. Pulver, Wheatland; Van S. Bennett, Whitestown.

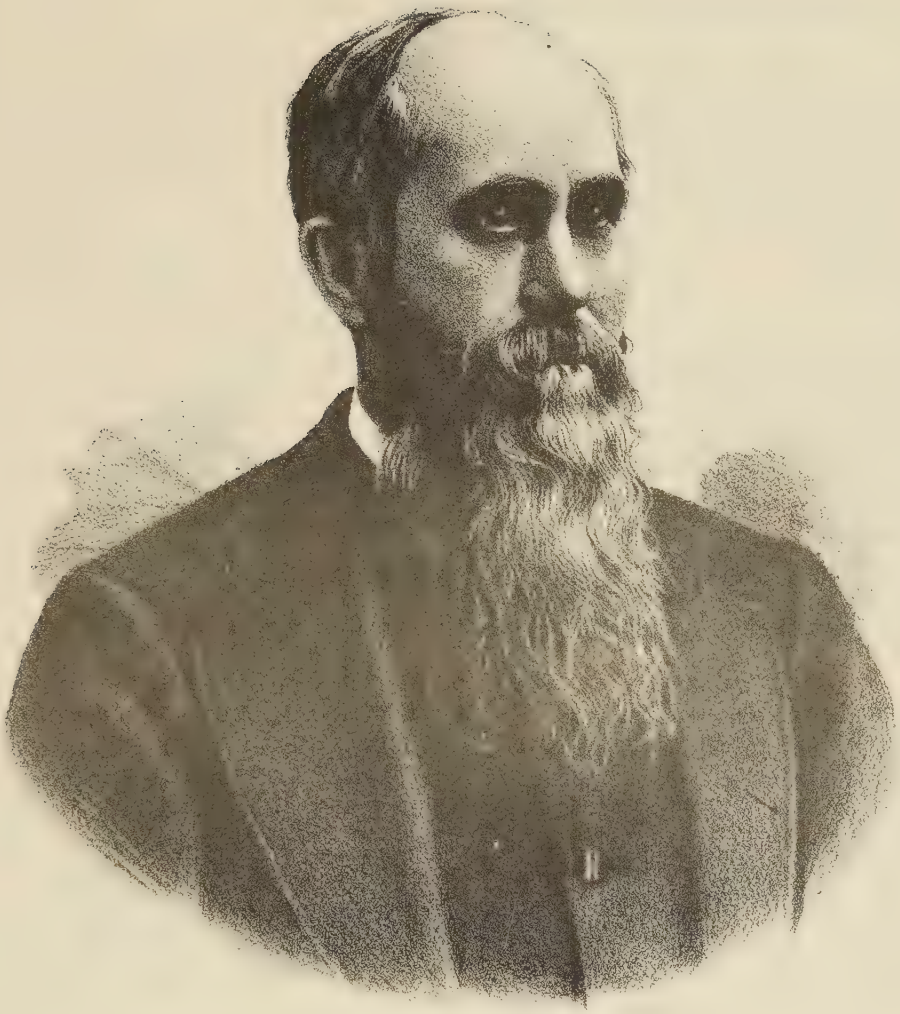
At this session taxes were levied as follows: For State purposes, $8,672.16; for county purposes, $13,275; for county school purposes, $3,590; The total assessed valuation of the county, $3,792,999.

D. A. Barnard was re-elected superintendent of the poor. The name of the office was changed to "commissioner of poor." $2,600 was appropriated to the poor departments.

The county clerk was authorized to execute a deed of conveyance of right of way to the Viroqua Railroad Company.

The annual session for 1879 began on the 11th of November. Van S. Bennett was re-elected chairman, and the rules of order governing the board in 1878 were adopted. The board was composed of the following gentlemen: Henry Schlong, Bergen; D. C. Yakey, Clinton; C. J. Skough, Christiana; Ole Anderson, Coon; R. S. Sherman, Forest; Christian Ellefson, Franklin; E. L. Oakes, Genoa; Martin Rodgers, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; J. M. McLees, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; Wm. Smith, Jefferson; Irvin Fox, Kickapoo G. W. Wise, Liberty; Eli McVey, Stark; Joseph Morgan, Sterling; T. S. Jordan, Union; E. Powell, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, Village of Viroqua; John Snyder, Webster; H. H. Morgan, Wheatland; Van S. Bennett, Whitestown.

At this session resolutions were passed asking the senator and assemblyman from this district to use their influence to have the Legislature pass an act providing for the biennial instead of annual sessions of the Legislature.



W. C. Nichols

D. A. Barnard was re-elected poor commissioner.

Taxes were levied as follows: For State purposes, $6,085.06; for county purposes, $15,-210.85; for county school purposes, $3,420. The total assessed valuation of the county this year was $3.802,714.

A special session was held in February, 1880, to take steps regarding a new court house. Van S. Bennett was elected chairman.

The following is a transcript of the record so far as relates to the county buildings :

Resolved, That the court house contemplated to be built in the county of Vernon, be built at a cost of seventeen thousand dollars ($17,000), and the jail at the sum of six thousand dollars ($6,000), and that the committee to contract for and superintend the construction of the same, be and are hereby authorized and instructed to have the same fully completed and ready for occupation, at the prices above named.

That the cost of said court house and jail is hereby limited to said sum of twenty-three thousand dollars ($23,000), and the committee hereafter to be elected shall not exceed said amount, and that said committee give a bond to said county in this penal sum of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) to be approved by the board of supervisors of said county to secure and indemnify said county against the payment of any excess above said sum of $23,000 for said court house and jail.

The special committee to whom was referred the petitions asking that the question of building a new court house be submitted to a vote of the people, reported the same back to the board without recommendation. Received and placed on file.

Mr. McMichael offered a resolution in relation to accepting a loan of $23,000 from the State. Referred to committee on finance.

On motion of Mr. Jordan the board adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

2 o'clock P. M. Board met. Called to order by the chairman.

The committee on finance made the following report.

Your committee to whom was referred preamble and resolution in relation to acceptance of a loan of the trust funds of the State, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully recommend their passage.

J. W. Hoyt,
E. L. Oakes,
Roger Williams.
Committee.

The report of the committee was adopted and the following preamble and resolutions passed. On this question the ayes and nays were called for. Those voting in the affirmative were: Messrs. Anderson, Bennett, Hoyt, Fox, Jordan, McLees, McMichael, H. H. Morgan, Michelet, Oakes, Powell, Rogers, Schlong, Sherman, Smith, Snyder and Williams,—seventeen.

Those voting in the negative were: Messrs. Ellefson, Hanson, Joseph Morgan and Wise—four.

Absent or not voting, McVey—1.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of Wisconsin, at its annual session, A. D. 1880, passed a law approved Jan. 29, 1880, authorizing the commissioners of public lands to loan a portion of the trust funds of this State not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000), to the county of Vernon, in this State, and authorizing the board of supervisors of Vernon county to borrow a sum not exceeding the amount above named, of said commissioners, and to issue to said commissioners certificates of the indebtedness so contracted ; said indebtedness to bear interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum :

Resolved, That we, the board of supervisors of Vernon county, duly assembled according to law, do hereby accept a loan of twenty-three thousand dollars ($23,000), according to the provisions of said act and the terms and limitations therein provided ; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the said board of supervisors of Vernon county, assembled as aforesaid,

do issue to said commissioners certificates of the indebtedness so contracted, and that the chairman and clerk of this board be and are hereby fully authorized and empowered, in the name of the county of Vernon to make, execute and deliver to said commissioners of the public lands, the certificates of said indebtedness, in such form as required by said commissioners, for any and all sums of money that may be loaned to said county, hereby fully empowering the said chairman and clerk of said board to do and perform all necessary things to be done by them to carry out the provisions of said act and these resolutions.

Resolved, That a certified copy of this preamble and resolutions be filed by the clerk of this board with the secretary of State of the State of Wisconsin.

Adopted Feb. 11, A. D. 1880.

Mr. Ellefson offered a resolution in relation to recording his vote, which the board refused to adopt.

On motion of Mr. Smith the board took a recess for one hour. The time having expired the board re-assembled.

Mr. Anderson offered the following resolution which, on motion of Mr. Schlong, was adopted under a suspension of the rules:

Resolved, That the new court house be built of stone, and that the roof of said court house be made of tin or iron, whichever to the building committee shall seem most proper.

Mr. Williams moved that Mr. Struck, architect, be invited to meet the board to-morrow morning. Motion prevailed.

Mr. Michelet moved that the vote by which the board refused to adopt the resolution offered by Mr. Ellefson in relation to recording his vote, be re-considered. Motion prevailed and the vote was re-considered and the resolution adopted as follows :

Resolved, by the board of supervisors of Vernon county that Christian Ellefson have permission to record his vote on the resolutions relating to building a court house.

Mr. Ellefson recorded his vote in the negative.

Mr. Smith moved that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to view grounds for location of new court house and jail, and report to the board to-morrow morning. Motion prevailed.

Messrs. Smith, Hoyt, Jordan, Hanson and McLees were appointed such committee.

Mr. Williams moved that a committee of three be appointed to examine the title to the lots on which the old court house and jail are located. Motion prevailed. Messrs. Williams, Michelet and H. H. Morgan were appointed such committee.

On motion of Mr. Hoyt the board adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, Feb. 12, 1880, 9 o'clock A. M. Board met, called to order by the chairman. Members all present except Mr. McVey. Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Schlong offered a resolution in relation to employing an architect. Referred to the committee on finance.

Mr. Hoyt offered a resolution in relation to building committee. Referred to committee on ways and means.

The committee on grounds were granted further time.

The special committee appointed to examine title to lots 1, 2, 7 and 8, block 6, made the following report, which was received and placed on file :

Your special committee to examine the records, in the register's office, in relation to the court house lots, beg leave to report that they have made the necessary examination and find that the county is the legal owner of said lots.

ROGER WILLIAMS,
JOHN MICHELET,
HENRY H. MORGAN, } Com.

On motion, a recess of thirty minutes was taken. The time having expired, the board reassembled.

The committee on ways and means made the following report:

We, your committee on ways and means, to whom was referred the resolution for the election of a building committee, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration and recommend its passage.

On motion of Mr. Hoyt the report was adopted and the resolution passed by a vote of ayes and nays, all the members present voting aye except Messrs. Sherman and Williams, who voted nay.

Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Vernon county, that this board elect a committee of five persons to be designated as a building committee. Said committee shall have power to contract for the building of a court house, the cost of which shall not exceed the sum of $17,000, and for a jail and jailors' house, the cost of which shall not exceed $6,000. Said committee shall employ a competent architect to prepare plans and specifications, and superintend the work of construction of said buildings; they shall cause public notice to be given that sealed proposals will be received for the construction of said buildings, and the material of which the same shall be constructed, and shall reject any and all bids exceeding the amount above stated. Said building committee shall require of the party or parties to whom contracts are awarded, to give bonds for the faithful performance of their contracts, as follows: For the construction of the court house, in the sum of $34,000, for the construction of the jail and jailors' house, in the sum of $12,000. Said committee shall give bonds to Vernon county in the sum of $50,000, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties and the proper disposition of all moneys of the county, placed in their hands, for the construction of said buildings. Said committee shall receive for their services, the sum of $2 per day each, for each days time actually spent in the performance of their duties, and six cents per mile, for each mile necessarily traveled. Said committee may elect a treasurer who shall give bonds in the sum of $26,000, for the faithful performance of his duties, and may make such rules and regulations for the government of their body as they may deem proper, provided such rules do not exceed the authority granted said committee by the several resolutions of the county board. All the bonds mentioned in this resolution (excepting the bond of treasurer of the building committee) shall be approved by the chairman and two other members of this board, and the bond of the treasurer of the building committee shall be approved by a majority of said building committee.

J. W. Hoyt.

Mr. Schlong introduced an order in relation to building commissioner. Referred to committee on finance.

On motion of Mr. McMichael, the board proceeded to elect by ballot a building committee of five members. Messrs. Hoyt, Snyder, Powell, McLees and Anderson were elected such committee.

Mr. Williams offered the following resolution, which was passed:

Resolved, That Col. C. M. Butt be requested to draft an order defining and limiting the powers and duties of the building committee, so that said committee shall not be able to make the cost of court house, jail and jailors' residence exceed the sum of $23,000, without being liable upon their official bond, for the excess of the said amount of $23,000.

The committee on finance made the following report:

Your committee, to whom was referred the order, in relation to electing building commissioners to superintend the construction of county buildings, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully recommend its passage as amended, by inserting two in place of one.

On motion of Mr. McMichael, the report was adopted and order passed.

The county board of supervisors, of the county of Vernon, do order as follows:

That there be two special commissioners elected by this board, by ballot, whose duty it shall be, to watch over and care for the proper erection of the court house and jail, and report in writing to the chairman and clerk of this board, of any irregularities in the performance of the work, selection of the materials or disbursements from the fund appropriated for building purposes.

That the said special commissioners shall have the further power, and it is hereby made their duty to inform the architect and chairman of the building committee, of any defects in the construction of said buildings, or deviations in the work upon said county buildings, from the plans and specifications of the architect pertaining to the same.

Signed, HENRY SCHLONG.

On motion of Mr. McMichael, the board adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

Two o'clock P. M. Board met. Called to order by the chairman.

The committee on finance made the following report, which was adopted and the resolution passed.

Your committee, to whom was referred the resolution in relation to employing an architect and superintendent of the new court house and jail, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully recommend its passage.

Resolved, That we hereby elect C. F. Struck, of La Crosse, Wis., the architect and superintendent of the new court house and jail, and that the building committee make a written contract with him for his compensation as such.

HENRY SCHLONG.

The special committee on grounds for new buildings made the following report:

Your committee appointed to select a site for new county buildings, have looked at various sites, and have selected as the most appropriate place for such buildings, a piece of land belonging to Mr. Minshall, seventeen rods and thirteen and a half feet wide, on the east side, running the full width of his land, back to the west line about thirty-five or thirty-eight rods, for the sum of $150 per acre.

WILLIAM SMITH,
J. W. HOYT,
PETER HANSON,
J. M. MCLEES.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, the report was adopted.

Mr. Jordan made the following minority report.

The undersigned, a member of your special committee, to whom was assigned the duty of viewing the several locations in and about Viroqua, proposed as suitable places on which to erect the new county buildings, and report to this body, begs leave to report that, in his opinion, the location occupied by the present county buildings is better adapted to that purpose, and all things considered preferable to any other, and would respectfully recommend the adoption of the resolution hereunto attached.

T. S. JORDAN.

On motion of Mr. Ellefson, the report was adopted and resolution passed by the following vote: Affirmative, 11. Negative, 7.

Resolved, That the court house and jail, to be erected, be located on the grounds occupied by the present buildings used for those purposes.

Mr. Williams moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolution in relation to building committee was adopted. Motion lost by the following vote: Affirmative, 10. Negative, 10.

Mr. Ellefson offered a resolution as to material to be used in jail, which the board refused to adopt.

H. H. Morgan moved to reconsider the vote on the resolution adopted in relation to location of new buildings. Motion prevailed by the following vote: Those voting in the affirmative were: Messrs. Anderson, Hoyt, Hanson, McLees, H. H. Morgan, Michelet, Schlong, Sherman, Smith, Snyder, Williams and Wise, 12. Those voting in the negative were: Messrs. Bennett, Ellefson, Fox, Jordan, McMichael, Joseph Morgan, Oakes, Powell and Rodgers, 9.

Mr. Williams moved that the resolution be laid on the table. Mr. McMichael moved to amend by postponing action thereon, until to-morrow morning. Amendment lost. The original motion prevailed, the resolution was tabled.

Mr. McMichael introduced an order authorizing county treasurer to pay over funds to the building committee. Referred to the committee on finance.

Mr. Williams moved to reconsider the vote on the order passed in relation to electing two building commissioners. Motion prevailed. The vote was reconsidered and the order laid on the table.

Mr. Anderson offered a resolution authorizing the building committee to purchase ground for new county buildings. Referred to committee on ways and means.

The committee on ways and means reported the same back to the board for their action. Mr. McLees moved that the resolution do now pass. Motion prevailed. The ayes and nays were called for. Those voting in the affirmative were: Anderson, Fox, Hoyt, McLees, Michelet, Rodgers, Schlong, Sherman, Smith, Snyder, Williams and Wise, 12. Those voting in the negative were: Bennett, Ellefson, Hanson, Jordan, McMichael, Joseph Morgan, H. H. Morgan, Oakes and Powel, 9.

Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Vernon county, that the building committee be and are hereby instructed to negotiate with the proper parties, for seventeen rods, thirteen and a half feet, by thirty-five to fifty rods of ground upon which the new court house and jail shall be located in the west portion of the village of Viroqua, on the site recommended by a special committee of this body and upon the lands of Mr. Minshall.

On motion, the board adjourned until 7 o'clock P. M. Board met. Called to order by the chairman.

Mr. Hoyt offered a resolution authorizing the building committee to sell lots 1, 2, 7 and 8, in block 6, Viroqua. Referred to committee on ways and means.

On motion of Mr. Williams, the board adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Friday, Feb. 13, 1880, 9 o'clock A. M. Board met. Called to order by the chairman. Members all present except Mr. McVey. Journal of yesterday read and approved.

The committee on ways and means made the following report:

Your committee on ways and means, to whom was referred the resolution authorizing the building committee to sell grounds, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration and offer the order hereto as a substitute, and recommend its passage.

The report was adopted and the substitute was passed by the following vote. Those voting in the affirmative were: Anderson, Bennett, Ellefson, Hoyt, Hanson, Jordan, McLees, McMichael, H. H. Morgan, Michelet, Oaks, Powell, Rodgers, Schlong, Smith and Snyder, 16. Those voting in the negative were: Fox, Joseph Morgan, Sherman, Williams and Wise, 5.

It is hereby ordered and determined, by the county board of supervisors of Vernon county, that the building committee of this board, is hereby authorized and empowered to sell lots 1, 2, 7 and 8, in block 6, of the original plat of the village of Viroqua, on such terms as shall seem to them for the best interests of the county, and apply the proceeds of such sale or sales, to the payment for the grounds purchased from Edward Minshall and wife, for the location of the new county buildings, and in constructing fences, walks, out houses, cisterns and in planting trees, or otherwise improving the grounds. Upon the committee making such sale, it shall be the duty of the county clerk, when notified, and requested by the chairman of said committee so to do, to execute to the purchaser or purchasers, good and sufficient warrantee deeds in the name and on behalf of Vernon county, for the lot or lots so sold.

All moneys arising from such sale or sales, shall be paid over to the building committee who shall render an account for the same to the county board of supervisors.

The committee on finance made the following report:

Your committee, to whom was referred the order authorizing the building committee to receive the $23,000 of the trust funds, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully recommend that it do not pass. The report of the committee was adopted. The board refused to pass the order.

Mr. Schlong moved to strike out the words "said committee shall grant bonds in the sum of $50,000" in the resolutions passed by this board in relation to building committee, which motion prevailed.

Mr. Williams offered the following resolution which was adopted under a suspension of the rules:

Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Vernon county, that chairman of the county board shall have power to fill any vacancy on the building committee caused by the death or resignation of any member of said committee.

Mr. Schlong offered a resolution in relation to bonds of building committee.

Mr. McMichael moved that the rules be suspended and the resolution adopted. Mr. Williams moved to amend by striking out the words "Ten thousand" and inserting the words "Twenty-five thousand."

The amendment was lost by the following vote: Affirmative, five; negative, fifteen. Mr. McMichael's motion prevailed, and the resolution adopted as follows:

Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Vernon county, that the members of the building committee be required to give a joint bond for the sum of $10,000 for the faithful performance of their duties, said committee shall have power to draw orders on the treasurer for the funds in his hands, said orders to be signed by the chairman of the board of supervisors and countersigned by the clerk, upon the recommendation of the building committee.

The annual session for 1880 began on the 9th of November. R. S. McMichael, of Viroqua, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen represented the various towns and villages in the county:

Henry Schlong, Bergen; M. N. Hanson, Christiana; H. W. Knapp, Clinton; Ole Anderson, Coon; R. S. Sherman, Forest; H. A. Owen, Franklin; John Carpenter, Genoa; John Shaughnessy, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg.

Wm. Webster, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; William Frazier, Jefferson; Irwin Fox, Kickapoo; Stanley Stout, Liberty; Charles G. Stebbins, Stark; J. M. Vance, Sterling; Laor King, Union; E. Powell, Viroqua; R. S. McMichael, village of Viroqua; John Snyder, Webster; H. H. Morgan, Wheatland; Samuel Sloggy, Whitestown.

At this session the bounty upon wolves was raised as follows: On a full grown female wolf, $15, bounty; on a full grown male wolf, $10 bounty; all whelps, $5 bounty.

D. A. Barnard was re-elected to the office of commissioner of the poor.

The board fixed the salaries of the various county officers as follows: County clerk, $800 per year; treasurer, $800; district attorney, $300; commissioner of poor, $2 per day and eight cents per mile; county superintendent, $3 per day not to exceed $800; clerk of circuit court, $300 and fees; county judge, $500.

Taxes were levied as follows: For State purposes, $12,811.29; for county purposes, $15,871.88; for county school purposes, $3,609. The total assessed valuation of the county at that time was $3,967,970.

On the 15th of November, 1881, the board met again in annual session. J. W. Hoyt, of Hamburg, was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following members of the board were present: Henry Schlong, Bergen;

T. Madden, Christiana; P. Brody, Clinton; Helge Larson, Coon; R. S. Sherman, Forest; H. A. Owen, Franklin; W. L. Riley, Genoa; John Shaughnessy, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; Simon Clawson, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; Wm. Frazier, Jefferson; C. M. Poff, Kickapoo; L. S. Rabbitt, Liberty; Irvin Nixon, Stark; J. M. Vance, Sterling; Laor King, Union; E. Tilton, Viroqua; H.A. Chase, Viroqua village; Wm. Hayes, Webster; H. H. Morgan, Wheatland; Samuel Sloggy, Whitestown. D. A. Barnard was re-elected poor commissioner.

Taxes were assessed by the board as follows: For State purposes, $10,242.07; for county purposes, $18,067.25; for countyschool purposes, $3,788. The total assessed valuation of the county in 1880 was $4,014,945.

For the annual session in 1882, the board met on the 14th of November. J. W. Hoyt, of Hamburg, was re-elected chairman. The board consisted of the following gentlemen:

Henry Schlong, Bergen; Patrick Brody, Clinton; Timothy Madden, Christiana; Ole Anderson, Coon; W. C. Stelting, Forest; F. K. Van Wagner, Franklin; W. L. Riley, Genoa; Martin Rodgers, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; Jesse Cowen, Harmony; Roger Williams, Hillsborough; A. B. Saxton, Jefferson; W. N. Carter, Kickapoo; L. S. Rabbitt, Liberty; Troy Evans, Stark; J. M. Vance, Sterling; S. Bauman, Union; E. Tilton, Viroqua; H. A. Chase, Viroqua village; William Hays, Webster; H. H. Morgan, Wheatland; Samuel Sloggy, Whitestown.

Chairman Hoyt appointed the following committees:

On finance: H. A. Chase, Roger Williams and Henry Schlong.

On claims: Samuel Sloggy, E. Tilton and Ole Anderson.

Ways and means: H. H. Morgan, S. Bauman, W. N. Carter, F. K. Van Wagner, A. B. Saxton, W. C. Stelting and Martin Rodgers.

Roads, bridges and ferries: William Hays, J. M. Vance, W. L. Riley, Jesse Cowen and Troy Evans.

Equalization: E. Tilton, L. S. Rabbitt, Patrick Brody, H. H. Morgan and T. Madden.

D. A. Barnard, commissioner of poor, presented his report, in which he stated that there had been forty-two paupers at the county house during the past year. The average number at the house during the year was thirty-one. The cost per capita of $1.24 per week. The number at the house Oct. 31, 1882, was thirty; of this number six were insane, fourteen idiotic, one epileptic, two cripples; four over seventy years of age; one under ten years, and of the others, two are incapable of self-support. The number receiving aid from the county outside of the county was 195. Mr. Barnard was re-elected to the office of poor commissioner.

The salaries of the various county officers were fixed as follows: County clerk, $900 per annum; treasurer, $800; district attorney, $400; clerk of circuit court, $300 and fees; county judge, $500; poor commissioner, $2 per day and 10 cents per mile; county superintendent, $3 per day.

On the 13th of November the board of supervisors convened for the annual session of 1883. J. W. Hoyt, of Hamburg, was re-elected chairman for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were members of the board, representing the various towns and incorporated villages in the county:

Wesley Pulver, Bergen; T. Madden, Christiana; P. W. Carey, Clinton; Helge Larson, Coon; R. S. Sherman, Forest; Christian Ellefson, Franklin; W. L. Riley, Genoa; W. King, Greenwood; J. W. Hoyt, Hamburg; Jesse Cowan, Harmony, G. J. Shear, Hillsborough; A. B. Saxton, Jefferson; P. L. Rush, Kickapoo; D. B. Sommers, Liberty; Troy Evans, Stark; J. M. Vance, Sterling; S. Bauman, Union; E. Tilton, Viroqua; H. A. Chase, Viroqua village;

William Hays, Webster; H. H. Morgan, Wheatland; Henry O'Connell, Whitestown.

COUNTY BUILDINGS.

The first building used as a court house stood upon the site now occupied by the Masonic Hall in Viroqua. It was erected in 1850 by Moses Decker. This building is fully described in the chapter upon the courts of Vernon county, the first term of circuit court being held in it. This building was used for the purpose of a court house until 1856.

In May, 1854, the board of supervisors of the county expressed themselves as in favor of the erection of a new court house. T. J. De Frees drew the plans and specifications of the proposed building and proposals were advertised for. In July, 1854, the proposition of Samuel McMichael to erect a building 30x38 feet in size, and two stories high, for the sum of $2,100, was accepted.

The erection of the building was at once commenced. It was finished in 1856, having cost somewhat more than the original contract. This building still stands just back of the store of Rogers, Williams & Henry. For several years after its erection it was the finest county building in the sixth judicial circuit. When it was first built the first floor was divided into six office rooms; later the partitions were taken out, making four rooms. The upper story was occupied by the court room.

In 1857 the contract for building a jail was let to Thomas Fretwell, of Viroqua. It was finished in November, 1858, at a cost of $2,060. It stands directly west of the old court house building.

The court house and jail were occupied until November, 1880, when the county offices and records were moved into the new court house, the one now in use.

The present buildings were erected in 1880; the contract for building the court house, jail and sheriff's residence being let for $23,000. The actual cost only overrun this amount $168, and this was paid by the county. The reason of this excess was that the sheriff's residence was veneered with brick, while the contract called for a frame building. This made the entire cost of the court house, jail and sheriff's residence $23,168.

The court house is built of stone; about 60x70 feet in size, two stories and basement. In the basement are two large Ruttan furnaces which heat the entire building. There are half a dozen large rooms in the basement which are used for storage purposes; partitions are of massive stone, making a secure support and foundation for the building. The first story is divided into cozy rooms which are occupied by the county officers. The upper story is divided into four rooms—court room, consultation room and two jury rooms. The court room is 42x58 feet in size, neatly furnished and well arranged.

Just southwest of the court house stands the jail and sheriff's residence. The former is of stone; the latter frame, with brick veneering.

The buildings occupy a beautiful square containing about four acres of land, just west of the main part of town.

MATRIMONIAL.

The first marriage that appears on the record books of Vernon county was solemnized on the 16th of May, 1851, more than thirty-two years ago. The contracting parties were Nels Nelson and Martha Olson, and the marriage ceremony was performed by Oliver Langdon, justice of the peace.

It would doubtless be of interest to many to give the record of marriages for the first ten years of the county's existence; but they are too numerous, therefore, only the first four years are given as taken from the records in the office of the register of deeds.

Samuel Nelson and Sophia Flick, by justice of the peace Orrin Wisel, on Aug. 25, 1851.

Job Brown and Mary Ann Davison, by Henry Waters, Esq., on Sept. 10, 1851.

Ingebright Homstead and Sophia Clemetson, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Dec. 20, 1851.

Leroy B. Bundy and Hannah H. Taylor, by Rev. Daniel Parkison, on the 4th of July, 1852.

Ander Anderson and Oleand Oleson, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Aug. 21, 1852.

Nels E. Olson and Anna M. Hansdatter, by Oliver Langdon, justice of the peace, on Oct. 17, 1852.

Jacob Lavold and Johannah E. Hansdatter, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Oct. 17, 1852.

Lewis Graham and Caroline E. Showan, by Henry Waters, Esq., on Nov. 16, 1852.

Lafayette Everson and Harriet Morley, by Edmund Strong, Esq., on Nov. 23, 1852.

John Clemetson and Martha Ingebright, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Dec. 15, 1852.

Philip Snyder and Elizabeth Guirt, by Edmund Strong, Esq., on Dec. 28, 1852.

Franklin Cooley and Mercy A. Wilcox, by Rev. Ira Wilcox, on Jan. 26, 1853.

John Lockington and Polly S. Wright, by Rev. Daniel Parkison, on Feb. 20, 1853.

Stephen O. Rice and Mary E. Decker, by Rev. Daniel Parkison, on the 23d of Feb. 1853.

Henry Sifert and Etna E. J. Siveney, married March 15, 1853, by Rev. Daniel Parkison.

Allen Day and Sarah McGary, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on March 24, 1853.

Jesse Ewing and Martha Palmer, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on April 19, 1853.

Erick Verack and Anna Siburuson, on May 16, 1853, by Oliver Langdon, Esq.

James Taylor and Louisa Henry, by Orrin Wisel, on May 17, 1853.

Nels Jakobson and Helena Paulson, by Rev. N. Brandt, on the 5th of July, 1853.

Hiram B. Patterson and Abigal E. Harkness, by Henry Waters, Esq., on July 17, 1853.

Gilbert Herrick and Ester A. Hale, by S. C. Lincoln, Esq., on Sept. 1, 1853.

Joseph B. Wilcox and Jane L. Willard, by Rev. Ira Wilcox, on Sept. 5, 1853.

Nathaniel Cox and Jane Teawault, by Rev. Ira Wilcox, on Sept. 7, 1853.

Samuel E. Burkes and Mary D. Crume, by Rev. James Bishop, on Oct. 8, 1853.

Ingebright Christenson and Matea Enos, by Oliver Langdon, on Oct. 10, 1853.

Francis Davidson and Jane Jones, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Dec. 9, 1853.

William Finnell and Catharine Moreley, by Oliver Langdon, Esq., on Nov. 30, 1853.

Nathan Coe and Mary Lawrence, by Rev. Nicholas Mayne, on Dec. 25, 1853.

The following are the names of those who were married during 1854, without going into particulars as to dates:

Isaac W. Waters and Martha Price.
George B. Taylor and Esther E. Spring.
Lucius Bundy and Cordelia B. Moore.
Christian Peterson and Anna Olesdaughter.
George Hastings and Lavina Caswell.
Christopher N. Johnson and Mary Nelson.
Samuel McMichael and Julia Cook.
Daniel Busbee and Hannah Groves.
Robert S. McMichael and Osla Ann Sperry.
Lorenzo Hill and Jemima Wilson.
Daniel Day and Mary Hill.
Joshua O. Richardson and Eliza Brown.
Marshall T. Butts and Nancy L. White.
James S. Medlicott and Emily Barrie.
Moses Wheeler and Betsy Targer.
Nirom R. Wells and Sarah A. Wright.
Samuel Brice and Mary Spradling.
Leonard C. Gillett and Emily Dunlap.
Cyrus F. Gillett and Sarah Jane Norris.
A. W. Gillett and Rebecca J. Glen.
Kidel Byron and Susan Halverson.
Michael Larson and Rachel Knudson.
Ransom P. Gillett and Rebecca Smith.
William Rogers and Margaret Mahan.
Peter Mathiason and Karen Jacobstaller.
Enoch Enochson and Sarah Oleson.
Andrew Evenson and Martha Nelsdatter.
Sylvester Nelson and Anna Hanson.
Sidney Harding and Anna C. Older.
Ben Gulbrandson and Abelena Oleson.
Elias Torgeson and Mrs. Algood Christenson.

The names and titles of those who performed the marriage ceremonies during 1854, in the cases mentioned, are as follows:

County judge, William Terhune; Revs. James Bishop, Daniel Parkison and H. A. Stub; justices of the peace, Sylvester C. Lincoln, Henry Waters, J. P. Harkness, N. W. Saxton, Robert Nelson, Orrin Wisel, Augustus H. Older, C. Cheatham, Oliver Langdon and A. Nelson.

During the last few years the records of marriages, show the names of many, both ladies and young gentlemen, who are sons and daughters of the parties mentioned above, who have themselves taken partners to their joys and sorrows. Thus a new generation steps to the front.

The following table shows the number of marriages recorded from the year 1851 to 1883, inclusive:

1851	4	1869	160
1852	8	1870	181
1853	18	1871	181
1854	31	1872	138
1855	59	1873	150
1856	66	1874	191
1857	69	1875	150
1858	88	1876	184
1859	71	1877	155
1860	82	1878	216
1861	84	1879	206
1862	50	1880	152
1863	39	1881	182
1864	13	1882	208
1865	47	1883 to Oct. 25,	126
1866	61		
1867	62	Total,	3,499
1868	117		

ABSTRACT OF THE ASSESSMENT ROLLS

of the several Towns in the County of Vernon, as returned to the County Clerk, for the year 1883,

NAMES OF TOWNS.	Horses.		Neat Cattle.		Mules. Asses.		Sheep and Lambs.		Swine.		Wagons, Carriages, Sleighs.		Gold and Silver Watches.		Pianos, Melod'ns. Organs.		Val. of Merchants and Manufacturers' Stock...	Value of all other Personal Property.....	Total val. of all personal property as aforesaid ...	No. Acres of Land.....	Value of the aforesaid Acres of Land.....	Value of City and Village Lots..
	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.	No.	Val.						
Bergen.....	338	$10,115	879	$ 8,526	5	$ 120	179	$ 197	770	$1,503	191	$2,187	....	.....	3	$ 56	.....	$ 5,785	$ 28,471	25,472	$ 64,709	.....
Christiana..	478	19,127	1085	11,902	2	100	1665	2,505	1264	3,372	186	2,123	12	$ 36	5	125	5,945	17,456	62,691	22,790	129,639	$ 8,237
Clinton.....	354	11,165	904	8,036	12	550	1499	1,815	1781	2,467	188	2,095	9	48	4	80	3,457	11,496	41,209	23,574	101,623	7,520
Coon	335	17,850	892	10,278	....	....	1469	1,851	1046	2,484	49	565	....	.....	3	55	2,300	10,776	46,159	22,484	101,996	.....
Forest.	246	7,575	903	7,916	18	525	2270	3,137	1334	2,326	181	1,881	6	11	4	80	.....	1,176	24,627	22,917	74,850	.....
Franklin....	750	23,582	1952	17,078	4	155	1747	2,371	1936	4,619	205	3,205	12	200	11	145	2,500	26,347	80,202	33,091	223,536	.....
Genoa	320	9,925	714	7,299	4	145	750	750	846	1,571	159	1,640	8	44	6	104	1,146	4,007	26,631	19,973	41,929	4,331
Greenwood..	325	12,255	1411	13,566	13	460	2537	2,735	1480	1,727	184	2,156	18	100	2	65	100	3,766	36,929	22,961	85,876	.....
Hamburg...	445	12,300	1117	10,371	7	170	607	607	1211	2,504	143	1,895	....	.....	4	110	2,325	9,067	39,349	22,994	67,336	7,956
Harmony....	470	12,571	1149	9,520	....	.....	681	681	1463	2,159	190	2,093	5	31	3	28	150	8,241	35,474	24,246	79,721	2,115
Hillsboro'gh	434	12,323	1383	11,358	7	205	3212	3,563	1151	1,519	305	2,125	36	256	19	348	7,375	14,537	53,609	23,234	118,406	14,390
Jefferson ...	651	30,791	1382	15,194	4	200	2386	4,533	1757	6,161	289	4,164	14	132	17	435	6,350	22,522	91,483	29,843	223,575	4,700
Kickapoo....	386	15,070	930	10,286	3	80	1645	2,474	1053	2,230	111	959	4	25	....	.....	1,600	4,926	37,650	23,419	64,594	5,273
Liberty	188	6,948	467	5,052	....	...	497	728	538	1,477	55	630	5	65	5	190	975	69	16,594	14,383	43,755	.....
Stark.....	313	14,190	798	10,353	13	750	1776	3,444	1104	1,684	118	1,760	13	117	12	375	5,690	5,399	43,862	23,040	74,381	.....
Sterling.....	627	19,902	1494	15,624	1	30	1743	1,736	1458	3,296	225	2,371	10	77	16	282	1,880	5,857	59,870	30,065	195,884	.....
Union.....	289	8,555	1034	10,718	11	290	1774	2,229	1054	2,277	133	1,478	13	30	....	.....	20	11,083	36,680	22,884	86,595	.....
Viroqua	815	40,705	1633	23,075	6	325	1806	3,715	1916	6,975	409	7,485	90	1135	64	3200	39,205	39,130	169,950	32,729	303,395	99,870
Webster	375	15,483	864	7,942	7	275	1428	2,314	1479	3,730	146	2,764	14	75	2	80	1,270	18,811	52,744	22,270	33,053	2,155
Wheatland..	290	7,770	537	4,410	1	25	591	591	539	1,213	134	1,423	31	228	17	328	8,775	6,805	31,568	17,005	48,165	23,570
Whitestown	228	7,793	694	7,851	8	275	1091	1,453	877	1,818	122	806	17	258	12	225	7,977	10,209	38,665	21,930	55,871	3,299
	8,657	$315,995	22,221	$226,354	126	$4,680	31,353	$43,411	26,107	$57,072	3,733	$45,905	317	$2,869	209	$6311	$99,040	$238,465	1,054,417	501,303	$2,268,909	$188,419

CHAPTER XIV.

CIVIL SUB-DIVISIONS OF VERNON COUNTY.

When the territory now comprising the county of Vernon was organized as Bad Ax county, in April, 1851, it constituted one civil town. This was called by the same name as the county—Bad Ax. Its organization was effected at the same time as was that of the county.

In this shape the county remained until the 29th of March, 1853, when the board of supervisors got together and divided the county into four civil towns. These towns were named Bergen, Jefferson, Bad Ax and Kickapoo.

The town of Bergen was made to embrace the territory now comprising the towns of Hamburg and Bergen, and all of Harmony and Genoa lying north of the dividing line between townships 12 and 13. It was further ordered that the first town meeting in Bergen be held at the house of John Warner.

The town of Jefferson embraced the territory of townships 13 and 14, range 5 west, now comprising the civil towns of Jefferson and Coon. The creating resolution provided that the first town meeting of Jefferson be held at the school house in the village of Springville.

The town of Bad Ax was the largest in the county. The records state that its boundaries were as follows: "Beginning at the northwest corner of township 14, of range 4 west; running thence south on the range line to the southwest corner of township 13, range 4 west; thence west on the township line between townships 12 and 13, to the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence down the river to the southwest corner of the county; thence east on the county line to the southeast corner of section 15, township 11, range 4 west; thence north on the section line to the northeast corner of section 27, township 12, range 4 west; thence east on the section line to the southeast corner of section 24, township 12, range 3 west; thence north on the range line to the northeast corner of township 12, range 3 west; thence east on the township line between 12 and 13 to the southeast corner of township 13, range 1 east; thence north on the range line to the northeast corner of township 14, range 1 east; thence west on the township line, between townships 14 and 15, to the place of beginning." Thus it will be seen that the town of Bad Ax embraced about sixteen Congressional townships.

The town of Kickapoo embraced exactly the same territory as it does to-day. Its boundaries were described by the supervisors as follows: "Beginning at the northwest corner of section 26, township 12, range 4 west, thence south on the section line to the southwest corner of section 14, township 11, range 4 west, thence east on the section line to the southeast corner of section 13, township 11, range 3 west, thence north on the range line to the northeast corner of section 25, township 12, range 3 west, thence west on the section line to the place of beginning." This made in all forty sections. It was ordered that the first town meeting of Kickapoo be held at the house of Orrin Wisel.

The indebtedness of the town of Bad Ax was apportioned in fair ratio between the new towns, and the records and documents belonging to the original town were to remain with Bad Ax.

In a few months it became apperant that the town of Bad Ax was altogether too large. From the northeast to the southwest corner was a distance of over sixty miles. On the 29th of

November, 1853, the board of sapervisors made another division, and created the town of Farwell. This change threw the town of Bad Ax into the southwest corner of the county. Its boundaries were described as follows: Commencing where the township line between 12 and 13 intersect the Mississippi river, thence down the river to the southwest corner of the county, thence east along the county line to the southeast corner of section 15, township 11, range 4, thence north on the section line to the northeast corner of section 15, township 12, range 4, thence west on the section line to the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west, thence north to the southeast corner of township 13, range 5, thence west to the place of beginning. The town of Farwell was created from the remainder of the territory which had constituted the town of Bad Ax, according to the division of March, 1853. The first town meeting for the new town of Bad Ax was ordered to be held in "the school house near the postoffice of Bad Ax," wherever that was. The first town meeting for Farwell was to be held at the court house in Viroqua.

The town of Farwell was short-lived. On the 25th of May, 1854, its name was changed to "Viroqua."

On the 3d of July, 1854, section 1 of township 12, range 5 west, was detached from the town of Bad Ax and made a part of Viroqua. This section adjoins the village of Viroqua upon the southwest, and the change was made through the influence of that place.

A special session of the board of supervisors was held on the 9th of May, 1855, at which the town of Viroqua was divided, and Forest and Hillsborough were created. Forest embraced four congressional townships; described as township 14, ranges 1 and 2 west, and township 13, ranges 1 and 2. This territory is now embraced in the towns of Forest, Union, Stark and Whitestown. The first town meeting in Forest was ordered to be held at the house of James F. Brown.

The town of Hillsborough embraced the territory of congressional townships 13 and 14, range 1 east, which now comprises the towns of Hillsborough and Greenwood. The first town meeting in Hillsborough was ordered held at the house of Albert Fields.

In this shape as to sub-divisions the county remained until the 13th of November, 1855, when a general reconstruction was ordered by the board of supervisors. The act of May 9, 1855, creating Forest, was repealed, and the boundaries of most of the other towns were materially altered. The new towns created at this time were Union, Webster, Christiana, Forest, Greenwood and Harmony.

The town of Union then consisted of congressional township 13, range 1 west and 13, range 2 west, now known as civil towns Union and Stark. The first town meeting of Union was ordered held at the house of Joseph Bean.

The town of Webster then embraced the same territory that it does to-day—township 13, range 3 west. The first town meeting was ordered to be held at John Richardson's residence.

The town of Christiana embraced the territory which now comprises the towns of Clinton and Christiana; or, in other words, township 14, ranges 3 and 4 west. The board provided that the first town meeting be held at Hunt & Olson's mill on the west branch of the Kickapoo.

The town of Forest was re-created, embracing, under this act, the territory of township 13, ranges 1 and 2 west, which is now civilly organized as Forest and Whitestown. The first town meeting was ordered held at the house of Benjamin Van Vleet.

The town of Hillsborough was also remodeled and made to embrace the territory of township 14, range 1 east. It still retains that shape.

From the south half of what had before constituted Hillsborough was created Greenwood. As to-day, it then comprised township 13, range

1 east. The store of Treve & Smith was designated as the place for the first town meeting.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were detached from the town of Bad Ax and attached to Jefferson.

Harmony was another of the towns created in November, 1855. The territory, as then embraced, is probably best described by tracing its boundaries as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of township 13, range 6 west; thence west on the township line to the northwest corner of said township; thence south on the range line to the northeast corner of section 13, township 13, range 7; thence west on the section line to the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence down the river to a point opposite the southwest corner of section 16, township 12, range 7 west; thence east on the township line to the southwest corner of section 13, township 12, range 6; thence north on the range line to the place of beginning. The first town meeting for Harmony was ordered held at the house of John Ruwalt.

The indebtedness of the original towns was appropriated out among the new towns created. This made eleven towns in the county—Bad Ax, Bergen, Jefferson, Kickapoo, Forest, Hillsborough, Union, Webster, Christiana, Greenwood and Harmony.

On the 27th of March, 1857, by authority of the board of supervisors the town of Bad Ax was divided and Sterling was created. This town then embraced the following territory: Sections 19, 20, 21, 30, 29, 28, 31, 32 and 33, township 12, range 5 west; sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 18, township 11, range 5 west; sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, township 11, range 6 west; sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, township 12, range 6 west; the north half of township 11, range 7; and the south half of township 12, range 7. It was ordered that the first town meeting of Sterling be held at the house of Lewis Sterling on the 7th of April, 1857.

At the same time the board ordered that sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 18, township 12, range 5 west, be detached from Bad Ax and attached to Jefferson. Section 1, township 12, range 5, was taken from the town of Viroqua, and made a part of Jefierson.

On the 28 of March, 1857, the towns of Wheatland and Masterson were created, and ordered organized. Provision was made for holding the first town meeting of Wheatland at the house of Jonathan Law, April 7, 1857. The first town meeting of Masterson was to be held at Hunt & Oleson's mill, on the same date.

The town of Wheatland then embraced the following territory: The north half of township 11, range 7 west, and the south half of township 12, range 7; also sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, township 12, range 6; and sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18, township 11, range 6 west.

The town of Masterson embraced territory which was taken from Christiana: Township 14, range 3 west.

Whitestown was created at the same time, embracing township 14, range 2 west—the same as at the present time. The first town meeting was ordered held at Prentice's store, April 7, 1857.

On the 27th of March, 1857, an important act was passed by the board of supervisors. It changed the name of the town of Bad Ax to Lockhaven. Thus it remained until the 24th of November, 1857, when the name of Lockhaven was abolished, and Franklin took its place. At the seme time the name of the town of Masterson was changed to Clinton.

On the 10th of November, 1857, C. W. Lawton and others, presented a petition to the board asking that Kickapoo be divided, but it was rejected.

The town of Bergen was divided Nov. 10, 1857, and Hamburgh was created, embracing the territory of township 14, range 6 west. It still embraces the same territory, although the final "h" has been discarded, the name now be-

ing spelled "Hamburg." The residence of Andrew Nelson was designated as the place for the first town meeting, and April, 1858, was set as the time for it. It was ordered that the town of Bergen retain all the records and pay its own indebtedness.

The town of Coon was created at the same time, composed of township 14, range 5 west, formerly a part of Jefferson. The first town meeting was ordered held at the house of H. Gelbrunson, in April, 1858.

Harmony was re-arranged so as to embrace township 13, range 6.

On the 28th of December, 1857, the town of Viroqua was divided, and Liberty was created. Liberty still retains the size and shape it then did, embracing the first twenty-four sections of land in township 12, range 3, west. The first town meeting of Liberty was to be held at the school house on section 9, in April, 1858.

On the 10th of November, 1858, township 13, range 2, was set off from Union, and its organization, as the town of Stark, was authorized. The first town meeting was to be held at the house of Morrison Wilson, in April, 1859.

A petition was presented from citizens of Bergen asking for the division of that town, but it was rejected by the board.

At the same session the organization of Coon was again authorized. It seems that Coon had failed to take advantage of the former act of the board, and had not elected town officers. This matter is treated at length in the chapter upon county government.

On the 23d of November, 1859, the board of supervisors ordered that the south half of township 13, range 7 west, be taken from the town of Bergen and annexed to Wheatland. And further that the north half of congressional township 14, range 7 west, be taken from the town of Bergen and attached to Hamburg.

On the 12th of November, 1861, the town of Genoa was created. The territory embraced by Genoa is probably best described by tracing the boundaries, commencing at the southwest corner of section 16, township 12, range 6 west, thence south of the west line of the town of Sterling to the northeast corner of section 29, township 12, range 6 west, thence west on the section line to the Mississippi river, thence up the river to the north line of section 19, township 13, range 7, thence east on the section line to the northeast corner of section 24, township 13, range 7, thence south on the line to the township line between townships 12 and 13, thence east along that line to the northeast corner of section 5, township 12, range 6 west, thence south to the place of beginning.

During the same session of the board of supervisors, at which Genoa was created, changes were made in the boundaries of several towns. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the north half of sections 9, 10, 11 and 12, township 12, range 6 were detached from the town of Wheatland and attached to Harmony. Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16, and the south half of sections 9, 10, 11 and 12, township 12, range 6 west, were detached from Wheatland and annexed to Sterling. The committee which recommended these changes was composed of John T. Brinkmann, Joseph M. Waddell and J. O. Parker.

For a number of years no change was made in the shape of the towns.

On the 12th of July, 1867, the north half of township 14, range 7, was taken from Hamburg and attached to Bergen.

At the November session of the board of supervisors in 1873, it was ordered that the following question should be submitted to the voters of the town of Genoa: Whether all the territory belonging to Genoa, lying on the south side of the Bad Ax creek should be taken from Genoa and attached to Wheatland. It seems that the proposition was rejected at the polls, for the change never went into effect.

All these creations and alterations have been necessary to bring the county into its present shape—as to sub-divisions. The county now has twenty-one civil towns. They are as follows, commencing at the northeast corner:

Hillsborough, embracing township 14 north, range 1 east.

Forest, township 14, range 1 west.

Whitestown, township 14, range 2 west.

Clinton, township 14, range 3 west.

Christiana, township 14, range 4 west.

Coon, township 14, range 5 west.

Hamburg, township 14, range 6 west.

Bergen, township 14, range 7 west; and the north half of township 13, range 7.

Greenwood, township 13, range 1 east.

Union, township 13, range 1 west.

Stark, township 13, range 2 west.

Webster, township 13, range 3 west.

Viroqua, township 13, range 4 west; and sixteen sections of township 12, range 4 west.

Jefferson, township 13, range 5 west; and twelve sections of township 12, range 4 west.

Harmony, township 13, range 6 west; and six sections of township 12, range 6 west.

Liberty, sections 1 to 24 inclusive, township 12, range 3 west.

Franklin, sixteen sections of township 12, range 4 west; fifteen sections of township 12, range 5 west; twelve sections of township 11, range 4 west; and nine sections of township 11, range 5 west.

Sterling, nine sections of township 12, range 5 west; eighteen sections of township 12, range 6 west; nine sections of township 11, range 5 west; and twelve sections of township 11, range 6 west.

Genoa, the south half of township 13, range 7 west; and twenty-four sections of township 12, range 7 west.

Kickapoo, the north half of township 11, range 3 west; twelve sections of township 12, range 3 west; four sections of township 12, range 4 west; and six sections of township 11, range 4 west.

Wheatland, four sections of township 12, range 6 west; six sections of township 11, range 6 west; the north half of township 11, range 7 west, lying east of the Mississippi river; and the two southern tiers of sections of township 12, range 7, lying east of the river.

CHAPTER XV.

THE COURTS OF VERNON COUNTY.

THE CIRCUIT COURT.

Circuit courts were created by the constitution of the State adopted upon its admission to the Union in 1848. They were to have general original jurisdiction in all matters civil and criminal, not exclusively cognizable by a justice of the peace or some other inferior court. They were to have all the powers according to the usages of courts of law and equity necessary to the full and complete jurisdiction of the causes and parties, and the full and complete administration of justice. Their acts and proceedings were made subject to a re-examination by the supreme court, as provided by law.

The constitution divided the State into five judicial circuits, and provided for the election of a judge in each, The first circuit comprised the counties of Racine, Walworth, Rock and Green; the second circuit, the counties of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson and Dane; the third circuit, the counties of Washington, Dodge, Columbia, Marquette, Sauk and Portage; the fourth circiut, the counties of Brown, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Winnebago and Calu-

H. O. Wooten

met; the fifth circuit, the counties of Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Crawford and St. Croix. At that time Vernon county had not yet been organized, its territory being embraced in Crawford county.

In 1851 the territory now comprising Vernon was organized as Bad Ax county, and became a part of the newly organized sixth judicial circuit. Arrangements were made to hold the first term of court at Viroqua, the temporary county seat, in the spring of 1851. Accordingly circuit court convened for the first time in Bad Ax county, on the 9th of May, 1851, in a little log building which stood upon the site now occupied by the Odd Fellows and Masonic Hall, and H. D. Williams' building, in Viroqua. The building had been erected the previous year by Moses Decker, aided by the settlers in a "raising bee." It was 18x22 feet in size, one story high, and covered with oak shakes. The floor was made of hewn puncheons; the seats of the same with legs inserted; the desks and benches also of puncheons, nailed to the log wall. In fact, what was not made of the proverbial "shakes or puncheons" was almost unnecessary in the construction of a building or the manufacture of its furniture in those days. This cabin had been used for almost every conceivable purpose; dances, schools, church services, debating societies, terms of court and political conventions, each in turn honored the dingy little room with their gaieties or sober deliberations. The cabin was used for the purpose of a court house until about 1856, when it was superseded by a better building, and then torn down. The clerk of court during these years held his office in it.

Hon. Wiram Knowlton, of Crawford county, presided over the first term of court held in Bad Ax county, and was the first judge of the sixth judicial circuit. At the first term there was but little business to transact. In fact the only thing done was the admission of Lorenzo A. Pierce to the bar, upon motion of Francis J. Dunn. The county officers who had been elected qualified before Judge Knowlton at this time.

The second term of circuit court for Bad Ax county was held, in November, 1851, in the same log cabin as the previous term had been held. By this time the little "court house" had been chinked up with mud for plastering. Judge Knowlton was still on the bench. At this term of court William F. Terhune, Thomas J. DeFrees, Norris W. Saxton and Rufus Dunlap were all admitted to the bar.

The first case to come before the court was entitled Samuel H. Sheffield *vs.* George Dascey and John Allen, for trespass on the case, according to the old time method of pleading. The case was continued until the succeeding term of court, when it was dismissed. James Cadwell was one of the attorneys in this case—the only one revealed by the records.

The first grand jury was impanneled and sworn at this term of court, consisting of the following named gentlemen: Isaac Spencer, foreman; Andrew Briggs, Isaac Coe, Ransom Gillett, Eldad Inman, John Snyder, Samuel McMichael, John Graham, A. H. Older, Westfall Decker, Orrin Wisel, William Reed, Daniel Gardner, Lemick Graham, Nicholas Murphy, Charles Waters and William Spencer.

The petit jurors who were in attendance at this term of court were as follows: James Clark, John Longley, Cyrus Gillett, George Dascey, John Allen, William C. McMichael, Lewis Graham, Jacob Johnson, Henry Waters, Samuel Nelson, Andrew Henry, Everett Eaton, Barney C. Hutchinson, James McCormic, George P. Taylor, John McCullock, George Pike, C. B. Brown, A. Southwick, Michael Hinkst, James Foster, Nicholas Vought, William Coe, Nelson DeFrees and Oliver Langdon.

The first State case to be tried by the circuit court of Bad Ax county, was against Joseph and Joseph M. Heck, upon an indictment for assault and battery with intent to commit mur-

der. The case came before Judge Knowlton upon a change of venue from Crawford county. It was continued until the spring term of court in 1852, when the district attorney entered a *nolle prosequi*—a refusal to further prosecute.

The grand jury which had been impanneled, as stated, returned three bills of indictment before the close of the fall term in 1851. The first was against William S. Tippits for assault with intent to kill; a *nolle prosequi* was entered in this case. The second was against L. D. Smith for the same crime as Tippits was charged with. The third was against Isaac Wright for an assault upon a peace officer. In the two last cases the indictments were quashed.

This concluded the work of the fall term of 1851. At this time Orrin Wisel was clerk of court, and William F. Terhune, deputy; the latter attending to the business of the office.

The third term of circuit court convened at the little log court house, in May, 1852. Judge Knowlton was still on the bench.

The first matter to engage the attention of the court was an indictment which the grand jury returned against John Myers, for assault with intent to kill Eldad Inman.

At the September term of court, in 1853, one of the most important criminal cases that have ever been tried in the county, came before Judge Knowlton. Its title was, "State of Wisconsin *vs.* William Watts." Watts had been indicted for murder in the first degree, by the grand jury of LaCrosse county, and the case came to Bad Ax county upon a change of venue. The particulars of the affair were as follows: Some time during 1852, William Watts and a man named Deurst came from Illinois and settled upon a piece of land in Mormon Coolye, La-Crosse county, Watts being in the employ of Deurst, as a hired man. In the fall of 1852, Watts went to LaCrosse city, taking with him several head of cattle and other articles which had belonged to Deurst. He got upon a drunken spree and sold the property. For several days he hung around LaCrosse, and then disappeared. At that time the country in the region of Mormon Coolye was very sparsely settled, and it was some days before Deurst was missed; but in time suspicions were aroused from the action of Watts, and the continued absence of Deurst, that all was not right. The premises were examined, and it was found that Deurst had been murdered, and his body dragged some distance and hid in in a thicket. Watts was still absent. A reward of $500 was offered for his apprehension. It subsequently transpired that Watts came to Bad Ax county and hired out to work for Anson G. Tainter. For several months he continued work, gaining the confidence of his employer. Finally a man from La Crosse county, who came to Tainter's upon business, recognized Watts, and told Tainter that he believed Watts was the murderer, but would make further examination while the family were eating dinner, and report the result.

After dinner he told Tainter that it was a mistake and the suspicion was unfounded. The La Crosse man than proceeded on his way to Prairie du Chien, and upon his arrival at that place wrote the sheriff of La Crosse county informing him of the whereabouts of Watts. The sheriff at once came down to Tainter's, arrested Watts and took him to La Crosse, where the grand jury had found a true bill of indictment against him for the murder of Deurst. Before plea he secured a change of venue to Bad Ax county, where the case came to trial in September, 1853. The counsel were among the most distinguished lawyers in this part of the State and both gentlemen afterwards became circuit judges. Edwin Flint was for the prosecution and George Gale for the defense. Both were then residents of La Crosse. The trial excited great interest. The theory of the prosecution was, of course, all circumstantial; but this evidence and the chain of circumstances was most convincing. No one had seen him strike the blow, but his subsequent actions, selling the cattle, running away and assuming a different

name plainly proved his guilt. The theory of Watts' defense was self protection. Deurst was a rough, violent tempered man. Watts claimed that he had loaned Deurst money, and worked for him until his due amounted to a considerable sum. So one day they got together for a final settlement, and while looking over accounts, they got into a quarrel. Deurst in a fit of anger drew a knife and attacked Watts, who, in defense, struck Deurst with an ax handle which he was engaged in making. Watts claimed he struck a harder blow than he intended and when he found it resulted fatally he was very much troubled; and finally adopted the only course he thought left to him, of hiding the body and making his escape.

When the case was called for trial the prisoner plead "not guilty" and a jury was impanneled. After a long trial the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and on the last day of the term Judge Knowlton, after making eloquent and touching remarks concerning the heinousness of the crime, sentenced the prisoner to hard labor in the State pententiary for life. The affecting remarks and severe sentence of Judge Knowlton brought tears to the eyes of all present, except the prisoner, who maintained a stoic and indifferent expression which had characterized his behavior throughout the entire trial. William Watts was, accordingly, placed in the penitentiary, where he remained at hard labor until the 21st of December, 1861, when he was pardoned unconditionally by the governor, through the influence of George Gale, then circuit judge. The petition for pardon, which was prepared by Judge Gale, contained the signatures of all the jurors before whom the case was tried save one, who swore the sentence was just and he would never sign a prayer for the pardon of the convicted man.

Judge Wiram Knowlton's term of office expired with 1856, and he was succeeded as judge of the sixth judicial circuit by Hon. George Gale, of Trempealeau county, formerly of La Crosse. Judge Knowlton was a man of splendid endowments, both natural and acquired. He had a warm, genial disposition, and made friends among all classes with whom he came in contact. As a lawyer, he was a good one for those days, and was an able jurist. His great fault was his irregular habits. He lived at Prairie du Chien, until the time of his death, which occurred several years ago.

The following article, which was written by one of the pioneer lawyers of Vernon county, will serve to show some of the peculiarities and characteristics of Judge Knowlton:

"At one of Judge Knowlton's terms of court at Viroqua, there was a suit pending between Daniel Lowry, plaintiff, and Stephen Marston, defendant. Lowry had rented Marston's farm to work on shares, and had put in the ordinary crops. Along in the summer Lowry began to pull roasting ears and dig potatoes for family use. This alarmed Marston, who feared Lowry would get more than his share of the crops; so he cut up all the corn and hauled it home. Lowry thereupon brought suit against him for trover and conversion, in a justice court, and obtained a judgment. Marston appealed to the circuit court. Terhune was engaged on behalf of Marston; Bierce looked after the interest of Lowry. The action came up for trial before Judge Knowlton and a jury. After the plaintiff had produced all his evidence and rested, Terhune moved to non-suit Lowry on the ground that the testimony showed that the parties to the suit were tenants in common of the crops, and that one tenant in common could not sue his co-tenant for trover and conversion of the common property.

"The argument of Terhune was a lengthy one, and was concluded at noon, when the court adjourned for dinner. In the afternoon Bierce was to reply. At the opening of court it was plainly to be seen that something was wrong with the judge; he was overcome with drowsiness. Nevertheless Bierce began his argument; but he had not spoken many minutes before "his honor" fell quietly into the arms of Morpheus,

so to speak; in other words, he was sound asleep! But Bierce kept on with his argument—why should he not? Court was in session; the judge was upon the bench; the jury in the box, and the sheriff on hand to preserve order. There, too, was the clerk at his desk; and the parties to the suit sat near their respective advocates,—it was a scene for a painter!

"It is asserted by one who was present that it was exceedingly difficult to tell that afternoon exactly where, in the old log court house, the majesty of the law was ensconced. It seemed as if justice, for the nonce, had dropped her sword and scales, torn from her eyes the bandage, and incontinently fled! Bierce, after a good long hour of forensic effort, reached his peroration in eloquent style! But, if the court was convinced, there was no outward sign, for the judge still slept. An adjournment 'took place.' The judge, like the lords after the celebrated speech of Sheridan, was too much 'affected' to calmly weigh the matter; at least, the matter was then and there not weighed. Judge Knowlton retired half unconscious to his room. Jurors, parties, witnesses, officers—all staid around the seat of justice for a day or two, but the judge came not. Then, they took themselves every man unto his own home.

"Nothing more was heard of the suit for some three or four months, when the judge, who had by this time recovered his equanimity, wrote to the clerk, directing him to put the case on the calender for trial at the next term, as he had over-ruled Terhune's motion. The eloquence of Bierce had done its perfect work!"

Hon. George Gale held his first term of circuit court for Bad Ax county in June, 1857. He was succeeded in 1861 by Hon. I. E. Messmore, of La Crosse, through some change in the boundaries of the district; but only for a short time did Messmore continue on the bench, the county being again thrown into Gale's district.

George Gale was a native of Burlington, Vt., born Nov. 30, 1816. He had the advantages of a good common school education, and in March, 1839, commenced reading law. In 1841 he was admitted to the bar, emigrated west, and settled at Elkhorn, Walworth Co., Wis. Here he opened an office and entered into successful practice of his profession. Besides holding other offices in the fall of 1847 he was elected a member of the convention to form a State constitution, serving in that body on the judiciary committee. The same fall he was elected district attorney and a year later a member of the State Senate. On the 4th of July, 1851, Mr. Gale received from Gov. Dewey the appointment of brigadier general of militia. In the fall of that year he removed to the upper Mississippi, locating at La Crosse. He was soon elected county judge for the term of four years. Jan. 1, 1854, he resigned this office and in April, 1856, was elected judge of the sixth judicial circuit, then composed of the counties of Bad Ax, Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau, La Crosse and Crawford. He served the full term of six years. During 1857 he removed from La Crosse to Galesville, Trempealeau county, where he lived until his death, which occurred April 18, 1868. Judge Gale was best known, however, as a friend of education. Seeing that all northwestern Wisconsin was without college advantages, he first urged upon the people of La Crosse the importance of founding an institution near that village. Failing in this, he decided to remove to the Trempealeau valley, start a village and found a college. Accordingly, in 1853, he purchased a large tract of land where Galesville now stands, and in 1854 secured the organization of Trempaeleau county, with the county seat located upon his land. He also obtained a charter for the Galesville University. The board of trustees was organized in 1855, and the college building was commenced in 1858. Judge Gale was president of this college until 1865. He was not a college graduate but from his great interest in education, he was made master of arts by the Vermont University in 1857, and doctor of laws by the Galesville University in

1863. Judge Gale was a man of great energy and worth, and his death was much mourned by a large circle of friends. While Judge Gale was upon the bench William H. Tucker, a lawyer from La Crosse, who at one time had a very large practice in the sixth circuit, often attended terms of court at Viroqua. He acquired quite a reputation for wit and oratory, and, being somewhat cheeky frequently got into a discussion with the judge. On one occasion a dispute arising between Gale and the lawyer, they both became somewhat "warmed up," and the judge in his excitement, compromised his dignity by offering to bet $100 upon the point of law involved in the dispute. Mr. Tucker, quick to take advantage of the judge's forgetfulness of his position, exclaimed: "Hold on, Judge! you oversize my pile; call it $1 and I'll cover it."

At the October term of circuit court, in 1860, John Kellard, an Irish shoemaker, about sixty years old, a nervous voluable fellow who evidently prided himself upon having "licked the Blarney stone," was indicted for selling liquor without a license. He was very deferential to his superiors, and very lavish in applying and repeating titles. The indictment was in the old common law form, charging that "on the day of —, 18—, at the town of Franklin, in the county of Bad Ax, State of Wisconsin, the defendant did wrongfully and willfully *with force and arms* sell and traffic in strong, spirituous and intoxicating liquors and drinks." * * * The case being pretty strong against Kellard, he was advised by his lawyers to plead guilty. When the indictment was read to him in court, and he was solemnly asked the usual question of: "Are you guilty or not guilty;" he sprang to his feet and replied earnestly: "May it plaze this most honerable coort! I be—believe I am a leetle guilty; but, may it plaze your most honerable honer I plade not guilty to the *force and arms*, aforesaid."

Speaking of the oddities of practice in early days, Judge Terhune relates an anecdote regarding the case of State *vs.* Holt Bugbee, for assault and battery. The defendant was a tall six-footer who had been brought up in the back woods, who had a very loud voice and extremely large feet. It seems that the complaining witness was a nephew of the defendant. One day while passing along the highway in front of the defendant's house he began tantalizing the latter, calling opprobrious names and casting slurs upon Bugbee and his family. Finally Bugbee came out and gave the fellow a "booting." Bugbee was arrested and tried for assault and battery before justice court. W. F. Terhune was employed as counsel for the defense. R. P. Gillett, one of the early settlers of Viroqua, appeared for the prosecution. He was an odd, rough and ready genius, and was possessed of a good deal of natural wit and originality. It should be stated by way of explanation that the settlers in that region made a good deal of maple syrup, catching the sap in large sap-troughs made from linn trees. After the witnesses had been examined the argument of the counsel was heard. The defendant had nothing to offer save that the act was justifiable, was brought about by great provocation and was necessary to teach the boy better manners. Mr. Gillett, for the prosecution, in summing up the evidence and laying down the law, stated that "the boy was in the highway where he had a perfect right to be, and that no words could constitute a provocation which would justify Holt Bugbee in coming out and booting the boy with a *pair of sap* troughs." Continuing, partly in replication, he stated that "nothing argued on the part of the defense, would justify the defendant in starting out on the highway and kicking a poor boy with a big pair of "fourteen boots." "Its an infernal lie!" yelled Holt; "I only wear twelves!" holding up his foot. The boots were fined fifty cents.

Hon. Edwin Flint, of La Crosse county, was elected judge of the sixth judicial circuit in the spring of 1862. He served for six years. Judge Flint was a good lawyer, and a thorough

master of all the detail knowledge relating to the profession. He now lives in Mason City, Iowa, having retired from the active practice of law.

The case of State *vs.* John Tibbetts, upon indictment for murder, came up at the fall term of circuit court in 1864. The killing took place early in April, 1864. August Nifenecker, a former resident of Bad Ax city, was shot by Wm. S. Tibbitts, and died in about five hours. The substance of the testimony of witnesses was, that during a melee between Nifenecker and two men named Fopper and Moreville, Tibbitts seized the heart of a stave cut about thirty inches long and three or four inches through, and struck Nifenecker a heavy blow with both hands, cutting a deep gash in the center of the head from near the edge of the hair on the forehead, two inches long, toward the back of the head. In a few moments Nifenecker recovered and asked who struck him. On being told that it was Tibbitts, he looked around, and seeing him, gave chase. Tibbitts ran for the store, where his gun was standing behind the counter, and seizing it he shot Nifenecker in the breast, while the latter's hand was upon the latch, pushing open the door, with one foot on the door sill or top step. Tibbitts was seen to load his gun in the store previous to the shooting. From the evidence it did not appear that there had been any quarrel between Nifenecker and Tibbitts previous to the time of Tibbitts using the stave cut. The preliminary examination took place before Judge Graham and Justice J. E. Newell, and bail was fixed at $1,500, for want of which the prisoner was placed in jail. Before trial in circuit court, the defendant obtained a change of venue to Crawford county. He was tried, found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. He served his term, and afterward became so demented that he was placed in the insane asylum where he still remains.

In the spring of 1864, a number of ruffians belonging to a band of horse theives were captured and brought to trial before the circuit court. The following account of the affair was published by the Northwestern *Times*, of Viroqua, in its issue of May 25, 1864 :

THE BATTLE OF KICKPAPOO.

"On Saturday morning last, under Sheriff Poland, ex-Sheriff Goode, and Messrs. A. P. Bliss, A. Smith, L. C. Gillett, C. P. Richardson and H. A. Robinson, upon information received from a reliable source, made a descent on some horse thieves, who had congregated at one Dr. Hills, in a secluded place on the west side of Kickapoo river, about a mile and a half above the little village of Kickapoo Center, in Vernon county; and after a night ride of about fifteen miles, came upon them suddenly, about half an hour after sunrise. The two horse theives started for the bushes. Hill was ordered to open the gate, which he did upon threat of being shot by Mr. Goode. Some got through the gate, and others got into the field through which the thieves were running, some other way. They quickly gathered round the skedadlers, and seized one of them, but the ringleader shot Mr. Goode in the fleshy part of the shoulder, and in the melee caused by the falling of Mr. Goode, Graves, *alias* Eno got out of and a little ahead of the crowd. Several followed Eno and two of the party, Bliss and Poland, each fired two shots at him, and he fired two shots at Bliss, one of which passed through the right ear of the horse on which he was riding. The party here run out of ammunition and it being impossible to ride horses into the thick brush and over the logs, he was not taken. But the other thief and three horses were brought to Viroqua. Since that time Dr. Hill and other parties supposed to belong to the gang, or know something about them, have been brought to Viroqua, also, Eno's rifle and a fine mare and colt, that he claims as his property, that was probably stolen. Eno shot the sheriff of Fayette county, sometime since and a reward of $150 is offered for his body."

The same paper in its issue of Dec. 7, 1864, under the head of "Vernon County Court," said:

"The last term of court closed on Wednesday after a session of two and a half weeks. The members of the Kickapoo horse thief gang were convicted, Dr. Hill and Millison, for robbing old man Roger and Pitzenberger, (usually called Spitzenberger) for horse stealing and all three were sentenced to States' prison for three years; and all three were escorted to Waupun, by our wide awake sheriff, Rogers, and his efficient deputy, T. B. Brown. The La Crosse *Republican* says:

"A tough gang of robbers and horse thieves who have for years committed serious outrages in the valley of the Kickapoo river, in Vernon county, recently had their arrangements disturbed. Three of the ring leaders were convicted last week in the circuit court after an exciting trial of several days duration; and were sentenced by Judge Flint to three years imprisonment in the penitentiary. Dr. Hill, who has been a man of considerable note in that region, and a man named Millison, who was his near neighbor, were convicted of robbery. A man named Jacob Pitzenberger was convicted for horse stealing. Their conviction was secured by Millison turning States-evidence against Pitzenberger, which so exasperated the latter's wife that she turned States-evidence against Hill and Millison. The good work of caging such villains is not completed, as others of the same sort will be brought to justice. The trial of these men was conducted with great ability by Mr. Priest, of Viroqua, and Mr. Montgomery, of La Crosse, for the State, and Judge W. F. Terhune, of Viroqua, for the prisoners."

The case of State *vs.* Charles Skippens, was of marked importance. It came before the circuit court at the spring term of 1865. The particulars of the occurrence through which the defendant was indicted were briefly as follows: One Friday night, early in January, 1865, John Good and James E. Newell, Jr., went into the only saloon in Viroqua, at the Dunlap House. Charles Skippens, the proprietor, was holding a light for Mr. Stroup, who was fixing a bedstead for Skippens. Good called for some beer and Skippens said he had no time to get it, as he was busy. Good started behind the counter and Skippens seized him and was pulling him out as Newell put his hand on Skippens' shoulder, and said, "don't hurt John, he is drunk." Skippens and Newell clenched and Skippens pushed the latter to the floor over a chair. Newell then turned upon Skippens and struck him several times in the face, when Newell was pulled off and Skippens went into the other part of the basement and then up stairs. Newell went out and stood at the corner, a few steps from the stairs leading down into the saloon. A few minutes later another disturbance between Good and Skippens' step-son began and Newell started to go into the saloon. L. C. Gillett and others tried to persuade Newell not to go. He kept on until he stood on the second step leading down into the saloon. At this instance Skippens discharged his shot gun at Newell's head, through the window, just over the steps leading to the saloon. The muzzle of the gun was only about five feet from Newell's head when discharged. The charge of shot took effect on the right side of the head, tearing away the lacerated scalp and pushing it down over the right eye, and fracturing the scull. Newell sank to the steps apparently dead. He was taken to his father's house and Drs. Rush and Tinker were summoned to his aid, but it was all in vain, for the unfortunate man died on the 14th of January, 1865.

James E. Newell, Jr., was a native of Morgan Co., Ohio; son of Hon. James E. Newell, Sr. He came to Viroqua with his parents in 1854, and was thirty years of age at the time of his death. He had just completed his three years army service in the sixth regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and came home in perfect health,

received a warm greeting and looked forward to a quiet life in the midst of friends.

Immediately after the fracas, Skippens was arrested and taken to jail the back way, as the people were terribly excited and further violence was feared. Upon a preliminary examation he was bound over and in the spring the grand jury found a true bill of indictment against him. His first trial was had at the April term of circuit court in 1865. The jury found him guilty of willful, deliberate murder. For technical reasons the verdict was set aside and a new trial was granted. The defendant then applied for a change of venue, and the cause was removed to Monroe county, where, at the March term, 1866, it was again tried, and the jury failed to agree. At the November term, 1866, the final trial was had, resulting in the acquittal of the accused upon the ground of self defense. Thus ended one of the most exciting cases that has ever been tried in the county.

In June, 1867, Charles Skippens was again arrested, this time for rape and adultery. He was placed in jail at Viroqua together with Charles Shannan, who was charged with burglary. On the night of July 11, 1867, both of the prisoners escaped jail. The two were locked up in the same cell, and during the night in question they began operations by removing their bed and prying up a flat stone which was part of the floor of the cell. This stone was under the bed and next the jail wall. The instrument used was a short stick sharpened in crowbar form at one end. The stick had been taken into the cell for firewood, and had been there since cold weather. After the stone was pried up they began to dig, using wooden paddles and an old case knife, which had come into their possession by some means. About two feet below the stone first pried up, they came to the loose stones in the bottom of the jail wall, and removing some of these, they had, so far, a sufficient opening through which to escape. And now the help of good friends on the outside came into play, and some right-handed shoveler, (as was evident from the direction the dirt was thrown), dug a hole with a spade to communicate with the aperture inside. The opening was then complete and the birds flew. Skippens was traced to Ohio, where he had died.

The murder of Robert Lange, which took place early in January, 1865, was one of the the most shocking and cold-blooded affairs that have disgraced the history of the State. The murdered man and his murderer were both residents of Vernon county although the foul deed was committed on the prairie three miles southeast of the city of LaCrosse. Robert Lange kept a store and saloon on Coon Prairie. On the evening of Jan. 4, 1865, he left his place for LaCrosse, in company with Jacob Clear, a soldier of company K, 18th Wisconsin regiment, whose furlough had just expired, and he claimed to be on his way back to the regiment. This Jake Clear, as he was generally called, had heretofore clerked for Lange, when his establishment was further north on the same prairie. He had been hanging around Lange's for several days previous to Jan. 4, 1865. When about six miles from their starting place, the two stopped and got some coffee, and while there the woman saw Lange take out his money and count it, when Clear asked how much money he had and received as an answer "over a thousand dollars." Between 10 and 11 o'clock that evening Lange and Clear stopped at the Greenfield House, five miles from La Crosse, and drank some beer; Clear keeping his face hid as much as possible and drinking with his face away from the counter. About 3 o'clock in the morning of the following day Lange's team was found standing at the Bloomer House. About one quart of blood was found on the seat of the sleigh. As soon as it was light enough search was made, and Lange's body was found about eighty rods from the track, with the back of the head, side of the head and jaws smashed in with the head of an ax. The bloody ax lay near the body. The murderer set up two empty beer

kegs, one on each side of Lange's dead body. Clear at once returned to his regiment and accompanied it to Chicago, where he was arrested. He fully confessed his guilt and was taken to LaCrosse and placed in jail; but was soon taken to Milwaukee to save him from being hung by Lange's friends. He plead guilty, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life; but through some influence he was pardoned in 1880 by Gov. Smith, and is now at large.

At the spring term of court in 1868 the case of State *vs.* Alonzo Mitchell and others, evoked a good deal of interest. A lot of young fellows from Hillsboro and vicinity were arrested at the instance of Julia A. Betts, for taking part and engaging in a charivari. After a a lengthy and exciting trial, the boys were found not guilty. The lady, however, afterwards commenced a civil action against the defendants and recovered damages.

In the spring of 1868 Hon. Romanzo Bunn, of Sparta, Monroe county, was elected judge of the sixth circuit. His term of office began Jan. 1, 1869. In 1874 he was re-elected and served until appointed United States district judge, in in 1875, when he resigned the circuit judgeship.

In December, 1868, the grand jury returned five indictments against Warren Dennison, who lived at what was called Coon slough, in the town of Bergen, Vernon county. Dennison was an offender. He was charged with horse stealing, and many other criminal acts. In the fall of 1868 deputy sheriff William W. Lowrie, of Newton, went after him on a justice's warrant and found him at home; but he was sitting by the fire covered with blankets and pretended to have the rheumatism so that he could not walk. So he was left upon the promise on his part to come to Viroqua as soon as he was able. But in a day or two suspicions were entertained that he was merely playing a dodge; so Lowrie went after him again, but the bird had flown. Two or three times during the winter there were reports that Dennison had come back, but when he was searched for, it was found that he was still skulking. Hearing again that Dennison was at home, Mr. Lowrie and Gates Page, on the 1st of May, 1869, started out to capture him. They found him near home, but when he saw them he started to run toward the river, where he had a skiff, and his pursuers followed. While running, Lowrie fired a shot in the air to warn Dennison to stop. He did so, and turned back on his pursuers, having his hand behind him. Lowrie asked what he had in his hand. Dennison replied, a revolver. Lowrie told him to drop it, which Dennison refused to do. Lowrie then told him of the warrant for his arrest, and informed him that if he would surrender, he should not be hurt. Dennison refused to surrender, and said that if shooting was the game he could shoot as well as any man, and started toward Page, who levelled his shot gun on him. Then Dennison turned toward Lowrie, revolver in hand, and the two fired at each other about the same instant, although Lowrie was a little too quick for Dennison, his ball hitting the latter in the thigh, and probably disturbing his aim. Dennison did not fall, but was getting ready to shoot again when Page shot him, the load taking effect under the right shoulder. Dennison then dropped his revolver and tried to pick up a sled stake, but failed, falling back with the words "I'm dead." When he fell, Lowrie carried water to him from the river and washed his face. In a short time he died. A coroner's inquest was held, and after an examination the jury rendered the following verdict: "That the deceased came to his death by a wound from a shot gun in the hands of I. G. Page; that the killing was justifiable."

The case of State *vs.* Josiah Dennison for the murder of John Oliver, came before Judge Bunn at the fall term of the circuit court in 1869. The facts of the case, as developed by the evidence, were as follows: There was a dance at John Britt's saloon, Genoa, formerly Bad Ax city, on Christmas eve, 1868, which the Olivers and Dennisons attended. It seems

that there had been trouble between John Oliver and Warren Dennison, father of the Dennison boys. Late in the night of the dance John Oliver began to talk to James Dennison about this old grudge; but the latter told him that he did not want to have anything to say about his father's quarrels, and so the two parted without hard feeling. John Britt then got Oliver over to his house with the design of keeping him there and preventing a fracas. In the meantime Josiah Dennison had taken his partner home. After Oliver left, two friends of his began to boast that Oliver "could whip any Dennison," and offered to bet twenty-five dollars on it. This to James Dennison. When Josiah came back, James told him what had been said, and added that the men seemed determined to bring on a fight. Josiah then went to the men who had been talking of betting, but they denied the offer of twenty-five dollars, offering a wager of five dollars instead. It appears that there was then a match made up for Josiah Dennison to fight John Oliver, the next day, it being stipulated by Dennison that he and Oliver should both be searched for weapons before the fight began. After it was settled that the two men were to fight, some one went over to Britt's and told John Oliver, who at once became enraged, put himself in fighting trim, and ran to the saloon in which the Dennisons were, calling out loudly for "that d——d Dennison who is to fight me." Those in the saloon rushed out, Josiah Dennison among the first. The two men met on the steps, Dennison saying, "Wait till I pull off my coat." While he was in the act of pulling off his coat the fight began, probably by Oliver striking at him. Almost as soon as they closed, Dennison called out that he was stabbed, broke loose and ran down the street, Oliver after him. Not overtaking Dennison, Oliver soon came back toward the crowd. Meeting a man in the street he asked if he was a Dennison, which was denied. Passing on he came to George Dennison and with the words, "God d——d you, you are a Dennison," closed with him. George at once began to cry out to take him off that Oliver was "cutting him all to pieces." With that, Henry Dennison ran up, took hold of Oliver's shoulders, and jerked him off. Just at this instant, and while Oliver was in the attitude of striking with his knife, Josiah Dennison came up and shot him in the back of the head, about the base of the brain, causing almost instant death. The stabs inflicted upon the Dennison boys were not serious. Josiah Dennison gave himself up and upon preliminary examination was bound over to the fall term of circuit court in the sum of $1,000. A change of venue was taken to La Crosse county, where the case was finally dismissed, the killing having been so plainly justifiable.

At the June term of court in 1870 there were two horse thieves tried upon indictment, Marion Robinson and J. W. Grubb.

Marion Robinson had stolen a horse from a Norwegian in Hamburg township. He sold the horse; was followed by the owner; arrested; indicted; plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years.

J. W. Grubb stole a horse which belonged to H. W. Haskell, from a hotel barn in Viroqua. He was actuated more from the spirit of revenge than gain. He was arrested in Grant county and while Sheriff Brown was bringing him back, he escaped and took to the fields, running like a deer. The sheriff brought him down by shooting him in the thigh, and they then proceeded on their journey. Grubb was indicted by the grand jury, plead guilty and was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

Another interesting case which was tried at the June term, 1871, was that of the State *vs.* Chester Barrett, upon indictment by the grand jury. There were three counts in the indictment "for bigamy, adultery and lewd and lascivious conduct." It seems that many years prior to this time Barrett had been married, in Vermont, to a woman named Olive ————. The ceremony was performed by a minister

who lived in an adjoining State, and the statutes provided that all marriages should be performed by magistrates who were residents of Vermont. A few years after the marriage, Barrett came west and located in the town of Liberty, Vernon county. Here he was married again, to Jeanette Wood, on the supposition that the former marriage was illegal. In 1871, his first wife, Olive, prosecuted him and he was indicted as stated. Upon the first two counts in the indictment Barrett was acquitted; but was convicted upon the last, and sentenced to six months in the county jail. This was the man that was afterward shot and killed by Comfort Starr.

On the night of Oct. 3, 1871, James Butler burglarized the saloon of Peter Bartholomew, at De Soto, with intent to steal. The grand jury system had just been abolished, and information was filed against the defendant by Carson Graham. He was arrested, and upon preliminary examination was bound over to the circuit court. He plead guilty and asked to be sentenced by the county court. This tribunal sentenced him to one year's hard labor in the penitentiary.

The case of State *vs.* Nathaniel and Martha Cummings was tried at the May term of circuit court, in 1873. This was for assault upon the father of Nathaniel Cummings. While there was nothing of especial interest in the facts constituting the cause of action, yet the case involved a proposition of law which made it more than an ordinary one. It seems that the father and children had had some trouble regarding land, and the difficulty finally terminated in their coming to blows. They met, got into an altercation, and the woman seized a stick, and, in the words of the evidence, "hammered the old man." Nathaniel and Martha were arrested and tried. Nathaniel was convicted and fined $50 and costs, while Martha was acquitted. This was upon the principle that the wife having struck the blows in the presence of her husband, she was acting under his authority and coercion, and he was therefore responsible for her acts. The attorneys were Terhune & Graham for defense, and C. M. Butt for prosecution.

The fall term of circuit court in 1873 was disgraced by another murder trial. It was that of Comfort Starr, charged with the murder of Chester Barrett. These men lived in the town of Liberty. For a long time they had been at outs, and in constant quarrels regarding fences and easements belonging to real estate. On the 9th of June, 1873, Starr attempted to drive across a certain piece of land in the town of Jefferson. Barrett came from his house with a gun in hand and forbade his crossing. After a few words and threats Starr seized the gun he had brought with him and shot Barrett, killing him. Starr was arrested and bound over to the circuit court. The case was tried at the fall term in 1873, and was ably conducted by C. M. Butts, district attorney for the State, and Carson Graham and O. B. Thomas for the defense. Starr admitted the shooting, but plead self defense, and upon this ground was acquitted by the jury.

The spring term of court in 1875 was made memorable by the trial of the notorious case of State *vs.* J. P. Larry the defendant being charged with shooting John Downie. Larry and Downie were half brothers living near each other in the town of Liberty. On the 9th of November, 1874, while plowing in his field, Downie was shot by some unknown person and for a long time laid at the point of death. Isaiah Guist, a neighbor with whom Downie was not on very friendly terms, was arrested on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the foul and cowardly deed, but he clearly proved his innocence and was immediately discharged. As time went by the suspicion that Larry had done the shooting gained ground, and he was finally arrested. He plead not guilty and based his defense upon proving an alibi. The trial was a long and interesting one, and at one time a crowd from the neighborhood of the

town of Liberty collected and threatened to lynch the prisoner, so strong was the circumstantial evidence against him. But they were prevailed upon to desist. One strong point made by the prosecution was, that Downie's gun had been missing for several weeks prior to the shooting and this gun was found under a log near by where the man who did do the shooting stood. But Larry proved an alibi to the complete satisfaction of the jury, and was therefore acquitted. The fact as to who was the criminal is still shrouded in mystery.

Hon. Alfred William Newman was elected judge of the sixth judicial circuit, to succeed Judge Bunn, in the fall of 1875, and is the present incumbent. Judge Newman was born in Durham, Greene Co., N. Y., April 5, 1834. His parents resided on a farm near the village, where Judge Newman remained until he was twenty years of age, engaged in agricultural pursuits during the summer, and attending school in the winter. In 1854 he entered Hamilton College, from which he graduated in 1857, and continued the study of law, which he had commenced while in college. On the 8th of December, 1857, the judge was examined at Albany and admitted to the bar, and in January, 1858, he came west, settling in Kewaunee Co., Wis. Two months later he removed to Trempealeau, where he has since lived. He held various local offices and was State senator prior to his election to the circuit bench.

The case of State *vs.* Nancy C. Wiseman for assault with intent to kill, came before the circuit court of Vernon county, at the November term, 1878. It was really the termination of a series of occurrences which had before this received the attention of the district attorney. It seems that a single woman named Mary J. Sneed, living in the town of Stark, became the mother of a child, which she swore upon Mr. Wiseman, the husband of the defendant in the case in question. Bastardy proceedings were commenced against Wiseman, and he fled the State. A compromise was effected with the injured woman, by mortgaging one-half of Wiseman's farm for $500, and the proceedings were abandoned. When the pay-day of the mortgage came Mrs. Wiseman had concluded that her husband was not guilty,and refused to pay the same. The parties came to Viroqua, and counsel was secured. Mrs. Wiseman's attorney found that her defense was untenable, and it was accordingly abandoned. When she found that the money must be paid, she seemed to go into a perfect frenzy. Seeing the author of her troubles, as she thought Mary Sneed to be, she followed her into a store, where some trading was being done. While Mary Sneed was talking to a clerk, Mrs. Wiseman rushed up, and drawing a revolver pointed it at the girl's head and pulled the trigger! As good fortune would have it, the clerk threw up Mrs. Wiseman's hand and wrenched the weapon from her grasp before it was discharged. Mrs. Wiseman was at once arrested, and was tried for assault with intent to kill; but the jury acquitted her on the ground of insanity. The mortgage was foreclosed, and thus the case was finally settled. The attorneys were H. P. Proctor, of Viroqua, for the prosecution, and C. M. Butt, of the same place, and Morrow & Masters, of Sparta, for the defense.

Another murder trial engaged the attention of the circuit court and the interest of all Vernon county, at the spring term, 1880. It was that of the State *vs.* Carl Olson for manslaughter. The case was ably conducted by H. P. Procter, district attorney, for the State, and Butt & Graves for the defense. Carl Olson kept a shoe shop at Westaby, a few miles north of Viroqua. One night during the winter preceding the trial, a number of persons, among whom was Ole A. Johnson, gathered at Olson's shop, and a quarrel arose, during which Olson ordered some of the others out of his shop. During a fight which ensued Johnson received two blows upon the head, one of which penetrated the skull, and the wound had the appearance of having been inflicted with a ham-

mer. The following morning Johnson returned to his home, some distance from Westaby, and shortly afterward hauled some wood from the timber. A few days after the occurrence he was taken very ill, went crazy, and soon died. Olson was arrested, charged with the crime of manslauhter. He denied that he knew anything about who struck the blow, and plead "not guilty." The trial excited great interest. Sixty witnesses were summoned and examined and the jury found Olson "not guilty."

The case of State *vs.* Bradly G. Emmons and Sally L. Tripp, for adultery, came before the circuit court at the fall term, 1880. Emmons was the hired man of Mr. Tripp, the husband of the co-defendant, in the town of Hillsboro. She plead guilty, and was sentenced by the county judge to pay a fine of $200. It was paid by her husband. Emmons was tried by circuit court, found guilty, and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

In the summer of 1881 Thomas and James Riley were arrested for burglary. They had entered the store building of Albert and August Zabolio, at Genoa, and stole $92. They were bound over to the circuit in the sum of $200 each, and upon depositing the amount with the sheriff they were released upon their own recognizance. Upon gaining their freedom they both fled to some of the western territories and forfeited their bail.

COUNTY COURT.

County courts, or as they are generally termed, probate courts, were created by the constitution of the State, adopted in 1848. For a time they were vested with civil and criminal jurisdiction but this was soon taken from them. The name probate court expresses the jurisdiction which county courts now possess. Terms of this court are held monthly. In connection with the chapter upon county representation, the office of county judge is treated at length, showing who h ve filled the position since the reorganization of the county.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE BAR OF VERNON COUNTY.

There is no class or profession which has more influence in social or political matters than the bar. Even the press, which wields a mighty power among the masses, does not surpass it, as matters treated are generally local and varying. The pulpit, a great worker of good, is more devoted to the moral and spiritual welfare of man. But the profession of law embraces all under one grand aim. Upon the few principles of natural justice is erected the whole superstructure of civil law, tending to relieve the wants and meet the desires of all alike. The grand object of law is equal justice to all. Laws are formed as exigences arise demanding them, by the representatives of the people. Change is necessary. The wants of the people of to-day, and the lawful restraints to be thrown around us of the present age differ from those of past years. They are either too lenient or too severe; in one case to be strengthened, in the other modified. The business of the lawyer does not call upon him to form laws; but it lies with him to interpret them and make their application to the daily wants of men. Every matter of importance, every question of weight among all classes and grades of society,

come before him in one form or another for discussion. Hence, the lawyer is a man of to-day, posted upon all matters pertaining to the age in which he lives. His capital is his ability and individuality, and he cannot bequeath them to his successors. They die with him or live in the memory of his deeds and sayings.

In the early days of Wisconsin, business was not so great in extent as to occupy the full time of the lawyer. Suits were not so numerous or remunerative as to afford him a living for himself and family, and often other occupations were taken in connection to swell the slender income. As a rule the lawyer became a politician, and more of the prominent lawyers of those days went to Congress and the State Legislature than at present. The people demanded their services and they were glad to accommodate the people. To-day the profession stands at the head, almost, of all others, and the good lawyer must always be prominent, as he is one of the forces which move, control and protect society.

THE BAR OF THE PAST.

The bar of Vernon county has numbered among its members many who have been an honor to the county and to the profession, as well. So far as material was accessible, sketches are given of each attorney who has practiced before the courts of the county. If any are omitted, it is because their names have been forgotten, not from intention. The peculiarities and personalities which form so pleasing and interesting a part of the lives of the members of the bar, and which, indeed, constitute the charm of local history, are, in a great measure wanting. Unlike the fair plaintiff in the famous Bardell *vs.* Pickwick, there has been no "painstaking sergeant to relate the facts and circumstances of the case."

Of those attorneys who resided in the county at one time, and are now dead or have quit practice or left the county, the historian will speak first, later of the present bar.

Among those who have practiced before the courts of Vernon county, or who have been licensed resident lawyers, are the following: Lorenzo A. Pierce, T. J. De Frees, Rufus Dunlap, H. W. McAuley, A. H. Older, William Austin, R. C. Bierce, John J. Cole, W. S. Purdy, Carson Graham, O. O. Phillips, Newton M. Layne, D. B. Priest, E. H. Harding, T. C. Ankeny, H. H. Natwick, T. J. Vinje, C. N. Harris, A. W. Campbell, D. E. Hatlestad, R. J. Chase, John Nicholson, E. J. Steele, A. A. Hosmer and David Briggs.

Lorenzo A. Pierce was the first licensed lawyer in Vernon—then Bad Ax—county. Prior to the organization of the county he had come from Dane county and located upon a piece of land about two miles north of Viroqua and was engaged at farming. He had a fair common school education, and had been a school teacher. When the county was organized he was elected district attorney, so he began reading law, and was admitted to the bar at the first term of circuit court held in the county, on the 9th of May, 1851. He remained in the county but a short time, leaving it is thought to return to Dane county.

Thomas J. De Frees was one of the earliest settlers of the county, and among the first licensed attorneys. Mr. De Frees was born Nov. 4, 1804, in Rockbridge Co., Va., four miles from Lexington, the county seat. When seven years of age he removed with his parents to Miami Co., Ohio, near the present city of Piqua. Here he resided until May, 1837, when he moved with his family to the State of Illinois; thence to Wisconsin, in the present Vernon county, in 1846, where he arrived on the last day of July. He located upon a farm about one mile and a half south of town, and a few years later moved to town. At the second term of the circuit court he was admitted to the bar, and, for a time, did his share of what little legal business there was to do. About 1856 he sold his farm to a Mr. Beabout, and moved to Victory, where he was engaged in merchandis-

ing for a short time; then came back to Viroqua and bought some property on Bishop branch of Wolf creek. Here he put up a little grist mill. Several years later he and his son-in-law, O. C. Weeden, bought a steam engine and put that into the grist mill. They sold to Joshua and James Ady. In 1874 both Mr. De Frees and his son-in-law removed to Kansas, where they still live. Mr. De Frees, it is claimed, gave the first name to the county—Bad Ax—from the river of that name. He was the first probate judge of that county; served out the term for which he was elected, and was appointed by the governor to serve part of another term. He was also the third district attorney of the county.

Rufus Dunlap wasamong the first settlers in the county. He came from Ohio; was a man of about forty years of age and was genial and pleasant in disposition. He went to keeping hotel at Viroqua. In November, 1851, he was admitted to the bar but never attempted the practice of law. He remained here until the time of his death.

H. W. McAuley was for many years an active and prominent member of the bar of Vernon county. He came to Viroqua in 1853 from Lancaster, Grant Co., Wis., and opened a general merchandise store in company with George McCormick. Later he opened a regular law office and pursued the profession for several years. He still lives in the county, now making his home in the town of Wheatland.

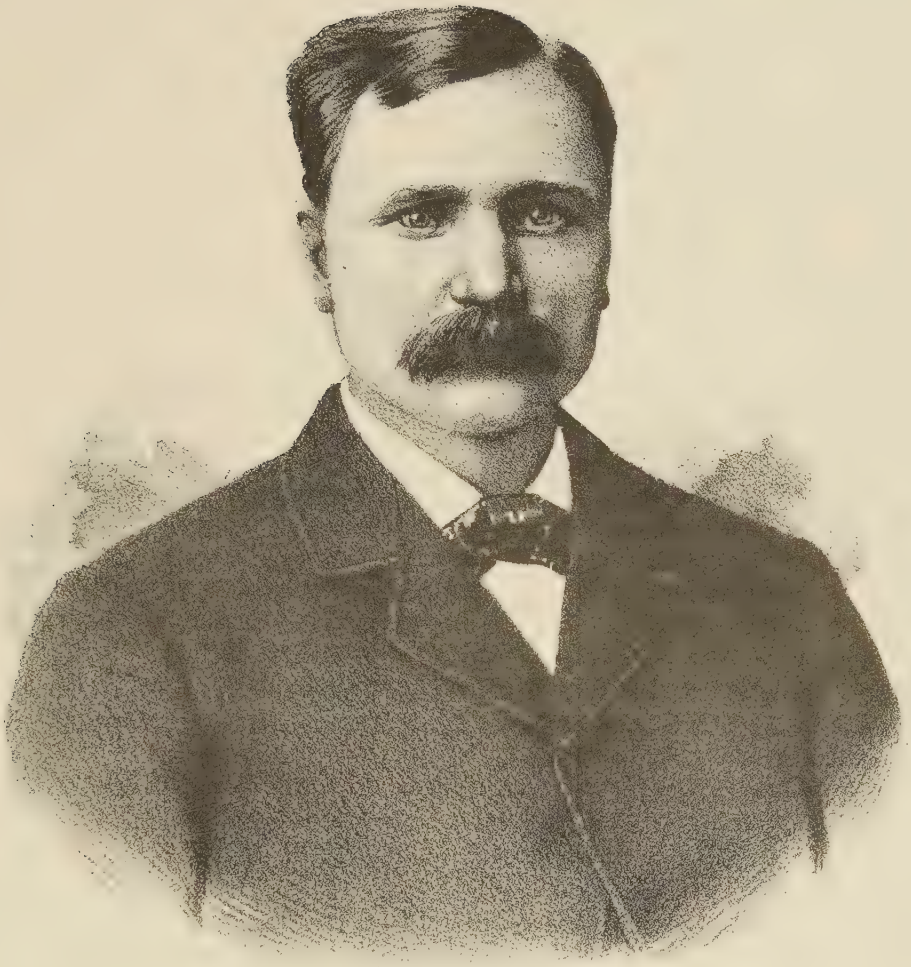
H. W. McAuley is one of the well known early settlers of Vernon county, and has been intimately connected with its progress since its organization. He was an early attorney of the county and was admitted to the bar in 1842. He commenced practice in Jackson Co., Iowa, in March, 1843, where he remained four years. He was admitted to, and practiced in all the courts of the territory (Iowa then being a territory) and practiced successfully with such lawyers as Platte Smith, of Dubuque, Judge Lefflingwell and Timothy Davis. He was a student of the old common law practice of Blackstone, Chitty, Starkie, Maddox, Rosco, Comyn, Jones, etc., but never was a willing devotee to the code practice (or Gunter's rule) of cut and try. A native of North Carolina, his ancestors belonged to the Mecklenberg colony and emigrated from Scotland to North Carolina, in 1774. He was born Sept. 9, 1816. His father, Daniel McAuley, emigrated to Mythe Co., Va., when H. W., was but three months old. In 1830 the family moved to Hendricks Co., Ind. Mr. McAuley came to the territory of Wisconsin, in 1835, and located at Mineral Point, in what is now Iowa county, where he was engaged in mining for a time. He was in Grant county when it was organized, in May, 1835. In August of that year, he went back to Mineral Point. Mr. McAuley, at this time, was quite a young man and not permanently located. He went back to the State of Indiana in the fall of 1835, but returned to Wisconsin again, the following year. In 1838 he again returned to Indiana and was married at Lebanon, Boone county, in 1839, and in 1840, returned to Wisconsin and located at Lancaster, Grant county. He had built the first house in the present village of Lancaster, two years previous, in 1838. In 1852 he came to the town of Wheatland, and assisted in laying out the village of Victory, as will appear in the history of that town. He was the first man who sold goods in that village, and has been a resident of Vernon county since 1852. In November, of that year, he went to Liberty Pole and engaged in mercantile business. In the fall of 1853 he moved his goods to Voroqua, where he continued business for some time. In 1854, owing to the difficulty of finding a store room, he removed to the town of Sterling and located on section 16. On the Bad Ax, he built a saw and grist mill, which was the second mill built on the south branch of this river, Ira Wisell having erected the first. Mr. McAuley was engaged in milling until 1871, when he sold out to his sons, William H. H. McAuley and R. M. McAuley, and removed to Viroqua, in 1872; in 1873 removed to Sparta,

where he was engaged in the patent business for a time. In 1869 he patented a turbine water-wheel, and in 1870, a nut lock of great merit, but never introduced it; then again located in the village of De Soto in 1875 and sold goods for a time. He now resides in the town of Wheatland on section 31, town 12, range 6, west, where he is engaged in farming, making a specialty of raising sorghum. Mr. McAuley has been three times married, his first wife was Eliza A. Richie, born in Nicholas Co., Ky.; the second wife was Rebecca A. McConnell, a native of Ohio; his present wife was Melvina Sloan, born in Clarion Co., Pa. Mr. McAuley has had twelve children, seven of whom are living, three sons and four daughters. In 1834 he wrote his first letter, which was badly executed, he not having had any instruction, being now away from home, at the age of seventeen, because of shame for his ignorance. But July 5, 1834, he started to school at the Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Ind., where he continued at intervals, as his health would permit, until the spring of 1836, having visited Wisconsin, in 1835, as before stated, for his health. Poor health from 1833 to 1851, prevented his entrance into public life, so he contented himself with an investigation into the matters of science, history, political economy and religion. He was always slow in taking a position on any new question, and as slow to yield to public sentiment which so often leads the unthinking man astray. He is an ardent lover of machinery, and firmly believes that the day is close at hand, when machinery will do all the work and leave the human hand and brain nothing to do but control; when the air like the water, will be navigated by vehicles as safely, the one as the other, as nature's elements are equal to the gratification of every desire of an elevated civilization. Development and maturity are the result of circumstances over which no finite hand or mind has any control.

A. H. Older came to Bad Ax county from the eastern part of the State in 1849, and settled upon a farm near Viroqua. He was a man of about thirty-five years of age and had a family. Whether he was ever admitted to the bar is a question, but he practiced considerable before justice's court in early days, and for a time was justice of the peace. He remained here until 1856, when he sold his place to N. Morrison, and moved to the State of Iowa, where, when last heard from, he still lived.

William Austin came to the county in 1853, from Marquette county, in the eastern part of the State, and settled at Readstown, where he built a little brewery, which burned down a few years later. While there he began the practice of law, and was admitted to the bar at Viroqua. He remained in the county until just before the breaking out of the war, when he moved to Iowa, and when last heard from was in California. Austin never amounted to any thing as a lawyer; nor, in fact, was he successful in anything else he undertook. He was a pleasant appearing, oily tongued fellow, and many of his transactions while here betokened unsavory principles.

Royal Clifton Bierce became a member of the Vernon county bar in 1853. He was born in Cornwall, Litchfield Co., Conn., on the 3d of October, 1818; being the next to the youngest of eleven children. His father died when he was five years old, and the following year, the mother, with such of the children as were still living at home, moved to Nelson, Portage Co., Ohio. Royal C. received his education at the district schools in Cornwall and Nelson, and in the academies of Tallmadge and Farmington, Ohio. When twenty years of age he entered the law office of Hon. John Crowell, of Warren, Ohio, and having read law the statutory length of time, was admitted to the bar. He did not attempt to practice law in Ohio, save now and then in justice court, but taught school for two years and then came west, landing at Burlington, Iowa. He taught school near there one year, and not being satisfied with the country, came to Wisconsin and located at



Louis Tollefsen

Patch Grove, Grant county, in May, 1845. For a time he worked for a farmer and in November began teaching the district school at Patch Grove. In May, 1846, he tore up his Ohio diploma, went to Lancaster and entered the law office of Barber & Dewey, remaining with them until the fall term of court, when he was admitted to the bar. After his admission he practiced law for two years in company with Oran I. Spencer, when his health failed and he abandoned his practice. In the fall of 1853 his health having improved he located at Viroqua, and settled down to steady practice. He held the office of district attorney of Bad Ax, Vernon county, for two terms; the first in 1854–5, the second in 1858–9. In 1858 the Legislature passed an act requiring a thorough enrollment of the militia, organizing it into divisions, brigades and regiments, and requiring the governor to appoint all necessary field officers. Under this law, Gov. Randall appointed Mr. Bierce colonel. The enrolled militia of Bad Ax county constituted the 16th regiment, third brigade, fourth division. Isaac Spencer, of Springville, was appointed general of the brigade. In the summer of 1859 Mr. Bierce formed a partnership with Newton M. Layne, but in the summer of 1861, Mr. Layne went into the service. This partnership continued in name until the death of Mr. Layne, in 1864. In September, 1870, Mr. Bierce, feeling broken up in mind and body in consequence of losses sustained in the great tornado, sold his property in Vernon county and bought a half interest in the Sparta *Eagle*. He moved his family to Sparta, and remained in sole editorial control of the paper until May, 1871, when he sold his interest in the *Eagle*, and removed to Menomonee, Dunn county, where he at once opened a law office. He held the office of district attorney of Dunn county for three successive terms, from January, 1872, to 1878, and upon the expiration of his last term of office, retired from practice. When J. M. Rusk was elected governor, Mr. Bierce accepted an office in the adjutant general's department of the State government, which he still retains. Mr. Bierce was married in 1856, to Emily Ann Green, of Holyoke, Mass., by whom he had three children, one of whom is still living. The mother died July 25, 1874, and in November, 1875, Mr. Bierce married Mrs. Elvira M. Doerr, of Springville, a daughter of Rev. Luther Kendall. They have one child—Flora Emily.

John J. Cole came to Vernon, then Bad Ax county, from Massachusetts and located at Viroqua, in 1856. He had been admitted to the bar and in practice before coming here, and upon his arrival formed a partnership with Hon. W. F. Terhune. He was well read in law, a hard student and had good success at the bar. He remained for several years when he removed to La Crosse, where he still lives.

William S. Purdy was admitted to the bar in 1859, but was never actively engaged in the practice of law. W. S. Purdy was born in Carlisle, Sullivan Co., Ind., Aug. 28, 1822. His father died when he was eleven years of age. Previous to this time his opportunities were limited, so far as getting an education was concerned, to subscription schools. From this time he assisted his mother, who was left with insufficient means, to support a large family of children. At the age of fifteen he commenced to learn the saddler's trade, which vocation he followed for about eleven years. In 1845 he came to the territory of Wisconsin. After spending all his money in mining, he worked in Mineral Point at his trade for about six months. Mr. Purdy married in Indiana and settled in Highland, Iowa Co., Wis., where he remained for one year. He then removed to Bad Ax, Crawford county, now in the county of Vernon. For ten years he followed farming, when he was elected clerk of the circuit court, which office he retained for eight years. He represented the counties of Crawford, Richland and Vernon in the State Senate one term. While living upon his farm he held almost all of the local town

offices at various times. In 1869 he was elected county judge and served for two terms in this capacity. He was married in 1846 to Jane E. Lemon. They buried two children and have two girls and six boys still living. Mr. Purdy was a whig in early days, but since its organization he has affiliated with the republican party and has always been an active politician. He made Vernon county his home until 1878 when he moved to Pratt Co., Kan., where he still lives.

Judge Carson Graham, for many years a prominent member of the bar of Vernon county, was born in Erie Co., Penn., Dec. 25, 1815. He acquired his education at the common schools and academies of his day. His father was a farmer, and his labor was upon a farm until the age of seventeen, when he went to Pittsburg to learn the printer's trade, where he worked for a short time, and not liking the business returned home. He then taught school for some time. In 1835 he commenced the study of law and on the 18th day of December, 1837, he was admitted to the bar. Soon after he was appointed assistant attorney general, of Pennsylvania. He was also deputy United States Attorney for the western district of the same State for six years when he came to Wisconsin to look the country over. Failing to find a location to suit him, he returned to Pennsylvania. In 1849 he determined to return to Wisconsin, and accordingly he located at Fond du Lac, where he remained three years, when he moved to Dubuque, Iowa. After a short stay in Dubuque, he located at LaCrosse; but being broken down in health, he returned to Erie, Penn., and resumed practice there until 1857. At this time the desire to go west again, returned, and accordingly he went to La Crosse where he remained until September, 1859, when he visited Viroqua on business and, as there seemed to be an opening here, he remained during the winter. In the spring of 1860 he formed a partnership with W. F. Terhune, and a year later was elected county judge, and this settled the question of his permanent location. In the spring of 1864, he was re-elected, holding the office eight years. He was also district attorney two years. He was appointed register of bankruptcy for the sixth congressional district by President Grant and held that office until it was abolished. Judge Graham continued in active businsss at Viroqua until the time of his death, Jan. 30, 1881. He was a man of fine social qualities. Possessing a wonderful fund of anecdote, with a splendid memory of past historical events, he was a most interesting conversationalist and public speaker. His widow still survives him.

O. O Phillips came to Viroqua in 1860, and read law with R. C. Bierce. When the war broke out he left the county, and his whereabouts are now unknown.

Newton May Layne became a member of the bar of Vernon county in 1860. He was born in Prestonsburg, Ky., March 19, 1839; being the eldest son of James H. and Sarah M. Layne. He came with his parents to what is now Vernon county, in March, 1854. In 1857 he was licensed as a local preacher in the Methodist Church. In 1859 he began the study of law in the office of Terhune & Cole, at Viroqua, and was admitted to the bar of the Bad Ax county circuit court, at the May term, 1860. He spent the following summer at Madison, Wis., in the office of Lawyer Rollins, returning in the autumn to Viroqua, where he entered into partnership with Col. R. C. Bierce, and began practice. In 1861 he was the republican nominee for district attorney. In December, 1861, he was commissioned captain of the "Bad Ax Tigers," a company recruited by himself and Lieuts. Goode and Charles W. Pitcher, which in January following was mustered into service as company C, of the 18th regiment. In March, 1862, they left Camp Trowbridge, Milwaukee; went South, and was in Prentiss' brigade at the battle of Pittsburg Landing. On the 6th of April Mr. Layne was taken prisoner, and in company with Gen. Prentiss and some sixty other officers, was held about seven

months, when he was exchanged. He returned to his regiment in November, and continued in active service until after the fall of Vicksburg in July, 1863, when, being prostrated with chronic diarrhœa, he returned to his home in Vernon county—came back to suffer, and finally, on the 28th of February, 1864, to die. Newton M. Layne was a young man who will long be remembered. He was a hard student from childhood; possessed of rare gifts of oratory; great personal magnetism and lofty aspirations, anchored to a strong Christian character. Few have stood upon the threshold of life's career with brighter prospects, and none have laid a more noble and willing sacrifice upon the altar of their country.

D. B. Priest was a native of Posey Co., Ind. When quite young he began reading law and was admitted to the bar. At an early day he came north and located at Richland Center, Wis., where he opened a law office and also engaged in mercantile trade. He remained there until he broke up in the mercantile business, and in the spring of 1861 came to Viroqua. He opened a law office and became a prominent man here; holding the office of district attorney for several years, and representing the county in the Legislature at different times. He was also interested in the Vernon County *Censor* for a number of years. In 1868 he was appointed United States revenue collector for this district, and removed to Sparta, Monroe county, where he lived until the time of his death in 1872.

E. H. Harding came here shortly after the war and read law with Col. C. M. Butt. He was admitted to the bar in 1869, but never practiced any here. He had been teaching school at Hillsborough, and returned to that place. He became sick from the effects of a sun stroke received while in the army, was sent to Chicago to be treated and later returned to Wisconsin and died.

T. C. Ankeny was a member of the bar of Vernon county for a number of years. About 1877 he moved to Tennessee, where he still lives.

H. H. Natwick was a Norwegian boy who was brought up in Vernon county. He studied law with Col. C. M. Butt, was admitted to the bar and engaged in practice. He is now somewhere in Dakota territory.

T. J. Vinje came to Viroqua in 1877 and became a partner of L. J. Rusk. He had been admitted to the bar, but had never had much experience of law. He was well read, full of energy and push, and being a Norwegian, he became quite popular among that people and did a good business. He lived here until the time of his death several years ago.

C. N. Harris was brought up from childhood in the town of Kickapoo, Vernon county. He attended the law department of the State University, graduating in 1879, and at once came to Viroqua. He formed a partnership with H. P. Proctor, which continued one year, after which he practiced alone until the spring of 1882, when he went to Aberdeen, D. T., where he still lives, being a member of the firm of Harris & Campbell. Harris was a smart fellow, and has excellent prospects. A. W. Campbell was a native of Wisconsin, coming to Viroqua in June, 1879, from Tomah. He was about twenty-three years old; had read law in Madison and spent one year in the State University. Upon his arrival here he became a partner of Judge Carson Graham, which relation was maintained until November, 1880, when he formed a partnership with W. S. Field. In March, 1883, this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Campbell removed to Aberdeen, D. T., where he became, and still remains, a member of the firm of Harris & Campbell. Mr. Campbell was a good office lawyer. He was a hard student, and was careful and painstaking in all the work he undertook. He was among the best pleaders that have ever been in the county, his papers rarely being disturbed.

D. E. Hatlestad came to Viroqua on the 16th of July, 1880. He was a native of Norway; had been educated at the Norwegian school at Decorah, Iowa, graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University, and was admitted to practice before the courts of that State. Upon his arrival at Viroqua he at once became the partner of H. C. Forsyth. This relation continued until October, 1881, when Mr. Hatlestad went to Crookston, Minn., where he is still in practice. He was a steady, industrious fellow and a fair lawyer.

R. J. Chase was brought up in Vernon county from boyhood. He read law with Terhune & Graham, went to Madison, and for several years was the law partner of J. H. Carpenter, becoming a successful practitioner. He now lives in Sioux City, Iowa, having become quite wealthy, and retired from practice.

John Nicholson came to Viroqua from Monroe county, and read law with Rusk & Wyman. He was admitted to the bar in 1881, and afterwards opened an office in Hillsborough, and a short time later went to Dakota.

E. J. Steele read law in the office of Rusk & Wyman, and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1883. He is now in Dakota.

Addison A. Hosmer, a graduate of the law school at Cambridge, Mass., was the first practicing lawyer to locate at De Soto. He settled there in 1857. In 1860 he returned to Massachusetts. During the war he served as an officer in one of the Massachusetts regiments, and became quite distinguished. After the close of the war he was made judge advocate, and it was he who sentenced the notorious Wirz of Andersonville infamy to death.

David Briggs located at De Soto as a Congregational preacher shortly after the war. He came from Illinois. He had been licensed as a lawyer some years previous to his coming, and finally gave up the pulpit for the bar. He was somewhat unfortunate in the profession, and returned to Illinois after a sojourn of a few years.

THE PRESENT BAR.

In 1883 the bar of Vernon county was composed of the following named gentlemen: W. F. Terhune, James E. Newell, C. M. Butt, H. P. Proctor, L. J. Rusk, C. W. Graves, O. B. Wyman, H. C. Forsyth, C. A. Roberts, W. N. Carter, L. Tollefson and W. S. Field, of Viroqua and G. L. Miller, of De Soto.

Hon. James Evans Newell is the second oldest attorney at law, in point of practice, in Vernon county. He came to Viroqua, Oct. 21, 1854, and during his long residence in the county has possessed the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. He is a worthy representative of the pioneer element of Vernon county, who are rapidly and quietly passing away from the scenes of their toils and privations. James E. Newell was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, in 1809. He is a son of David and Sarah Newell, natives of Ireland, near Dublin. Upon coming to this country, they first settled in Washington Co., Penn., and subsequently removed to Belmont Co., Ohio. In 1822 they located in Morgan Co., Ohio, where James E. was reared to manhood. In early life he served an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade, but commenced reading law at the age of twenty-three, with John Welch, Esq., of Athens, Ohio. In 1854 he came to this county, and the following year was admitted to practice at the bar. He thinks he was the third attorney to locate at Viroqua, and from that time to the present has secured a goodly share of practice. In 1856 Mr. Newell was elected a justice of the peace, and with the exception of two years has since officiated in that capacity. The same year he was elected judge of Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, and held the office four years. He has served in various local offices in the village, town and county, and represented his district in the State Assembly during the session of 1875–76. During the war he was a first lieutenant in a Wisconsin regiment. Judge Newell has been

three times married. His first wife, Ann Wood, was a native of Ohio, also the second wife, who died in Viroqua. His present and third wife was Matilda Longmere, a native of Newfoundland. Eight children were born to the first union, six of whom are living—William, in Missouri; Isaac, in Iowa; Ann, in Kansas; David, in Iowa; Kate, in Fargo, Dak., and Martha W., in Kansas.

W. N. Carter is an attorney at law of Viroqua. He was born at Catskill, on the Hudson, in New York, in 1845, and passed the first ten years of his life among the scenes of Rip Van Winkle's legendery exploits. His father, W. N. Carter, Sr., was a native of Green Co., N. Y., born in 1811, at Durham, and his mother, Mary MacFarland, was also a native of Green county, having been born at Catskill in 1813. In 1854 his father, with his family, removed to Illinois, and in 1855 he removed his family to Vernon Co., Wis., settling at Readstown, in the town of Kickapoo. He was a cooper by trade, but owned a farm and tilled the soil during a goodly portion of his life. He died at Readstown Dec. 6, 1880, and his beloved wife followed him to the great beyond, Dec. 10, 1882. When the civil war commenced the Carter family were among the first to respond to the call of duty, although having passed the age in which a man may enlist as a soldier. W. N. Carter, Sr., became a sergeant in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Vol unteer Infantry; was promoted to a lieutenantcy, but forced to resign from ill health, before the war closed. There were four sons in the family, and three of them, all that were old enough, entered the service. Sherwood E., was a member of an Illinois regiment, and served four years. He now resides at Lanark, in Illinois. W. N., Jr., enlisted Nov. 22, 1861, at the age of sixteen years, in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and served till Aug. 1, 1865. He was in active service during the whole period of his enlistment, and was promoted to sergeant, lieutenant and captain, holding the latter rank at the time of his discharge. Charles A. enlisted when but sixteen years of age, in company I, 17th regiment Wisconsin, Volunteer Infantry. He was severely wounded at Atlanta, Ga., and died of his injuries. W. N. Carter learned the cooper trade, as did his brothers, with his father, but after the war taught school for some years in Vernon county. He commenced the study of law in 1872, and three years later, entered the law office of Judge Terhune. He was admitted to practice in 1875, and was a law partner of H. C. Proctor until November, 1877. He then went to Readstown, but returned to Viroqua in January, 1883, and has since resided there. He has held the offices of town clerk, treasurer and chairman, in the town of Kickapoo, and was in 1880, the nominee of the democratic party, for State senator in the district composed of the counties of Vernon and Crawford, and in 1882 ran as an independent democrat for the Assembly, in the second assembly district of Vernon county, but the senate and assembly districts being largely republican,he was defeated in both instances.

Walter S. Field, a practicing attorney of Viroqua, is a life resident of Vernon county. He was born in Hillsborough town in the fall of 1856. His father, Albert Field, was a pioneer of that town, locating in 1851. Walter was graduated from the Wisconsin State University, at Madison, in the class of 1878, and from the law department of the same institution in the spring of 1880. In the October following he came to Viroqua, and became associated in the practice of his profession with A. W. Campbell, under the firm name of Campbell & Field. The former is now in Aberdeen, Dak., and a member of the law firm of Harris & Campbell. Mr. Field has been alone in the practice of law since March, 1883. He married Emma Tourjee, a native of Lafayette Co., Wis. Her father, Charles Tourjee, is deceased, and her mother is the wife of H. D. Williams, of Viroqua.

O.B. Wyman, of the firm of Rusk & Wyman, attorneys at law, Viroqua, has been a resident of Vernon county for over a quarter of a cen-

tury. He was born in Windsor Co.,Vt., July 7, 1847, and when seven years of age, his parents removed to Stoughton, Dane Co., Wis. In 1856 they removed to Hillsborough, in this county, where they made a permanent settlement, and now reside. Mr. Wyman grew to manhood in Vernon county, and in early life prepared himself for the teacher's profession. He taught for several years, then attended the State University at Madison,for three years, and subsequently held the office of county superintendent of schools in Vernon county, for three terms from Jan. 1, 1874. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar, March 29, 1877. He was elected district attorney for Vernon county at the general election in 1881, and was village president of Viroqua in 1882, where he has resided since 1871. The present law copartnership of Rusk & Wyman was formed in January, 1880. He married Emma Hammer, of Hillsborough, Dec. 28,1875. They have one son—Bernard M. Mr. Wyman is a man of fine attainments, well versed in his profession, and is an able and popular lawyer.

Col. C. M. Butt, county judge of Vernon county, and senior member of the law firm of Butt & Graves, has been a resident here since the spring of 1858. He was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1833, and began the study of law at the county seat, McConnellsville, in May, 1856. In the fall of 1857 he went to Des Moines, Iowa, and the following spring came to Viroqua, Vernon Co., Wis. He had progressed far enough in his studies to be admitted to practice in 1859, and at once opened a law office in his new home. During the summer of 1862, he was chiefly instrumental in raising company A, of the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and at the date of its organization was made first lieutenant. In March, 1864, he was promoted as captain, and in February, 1865, was chosen major of the 48th regiment, and in February, 1866, was elected lieutenant colonel of the regiment. Col. Butt was in active duty during his entire service of nearly four years. After the close of the war he was elected treasurer of Vernon county, and served four years. He was elected from this district to the State Senate, and served during the session of 1869–70. In 1871 he was elected district attorney of his county, and re-elected in 1873, serving four years. In 1878 he was elected county judge, and has since officiated in this capacity. Col. Butt is an able lawyer, a valuable public officer, and a man highly esteemed. He owns a fine farm of 240 acres in this town, adjoining the village where he resides. Mrs. Butt's maiden name was Margaret E. McAully, a native of Indiana, coming to Lancaster, Grant Co., Wis., with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Butt have a family of five children—two sons and three daughters.

Henry Clay Forsyth is a young and rising attorney of Viroqua, where he located for practice in August, 1879. He was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, May 22, 1847. His parents were William and Eliza Forsyth. His paternal grandparents were natives of Ireland, and emigrated to Pennsylvania, and afterward moved to Ohio. His maternal grandparents were reared in the Society of Friends, and rem ved from Chester Co., Penn., to Ohio, where they became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Forsyth came to Vernon county from Ohio, in 1865, and made his home with an uncle, Ellis Reed, of Springville, in the town of Jefferson. On the 3d of August 1867, his father was stung to death by bees, and a day later his mother died of a lung disease; thus throwing the burden of caring for seven orphan brothers and sisters, who, at his request, emigrated to Wisconsin. He received an academic education; was graduated at the Northwestern Commercial College, at Madison, and for a year was a student in the law department of the Wisconsin State University; but owing to illness, was unable to be present on commencement day. He was admitted to the bar at the session of the circuit court held at Madison in July, 1878, Judge Alvah Stewart

presiding. In August, 1879, Mr. Forsyth came to Viroqua, as before stated, and was in partnership with Judge William F. Terhune for about six months. On July 16, 1880, he formed a co-partnership with D. E. Hatlestad, which was dissolved in October, 1881. Mr. Forsyth is now alone in the practice, and has been a justice of the peace since August, 1878.

H. P. Proctor is a member of the law firm of Procter & Tollefson, and is one of the most promising legal lights that luminate the bar of Vernon county. He has been a resident of Viroqua since 1869, and from Jan. 1, 1876, to Jan. 1, 1882, served the people in the responsible position of district attorney. He has been three times honored with the presidency of the village board, a position which he was satisfactorily filling in 1883. Mr. Proctor was born in Franklin Co., Vt., in 1843, and in 1862 accompanied his father's family to this county. They located in the village of Newton, where they still reside. In 1864 Mr. Proctor enlisted in company D, 43d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the various fortunes of that regiment till the close of the strife. After returning home he entered the law office of R. C. Bierce, and afterward that of Judge Carson Graham. He was admitted to practice Dec. 13, 1871, and a short time afterward formed a partnership with his legal preceptor. This relationship continued until 1876, and since that period he has been successively in law partnership with the following named attorneys: W. N. Carter, C. N. Harris and Louis Tollefson, the latter co-partnership being formed Oct. 1, 1879. The firm of Proctor & Tollefson are found in the front ranks among the business firms of the county, both in point of legal business and deserved esteem. Mr. Proctor was united in marriage with Augusta, daughter of the late John W. Allen, ex-county treasurer, who died Aug. 31, 1881. Of their four children, three are living—Walter S., Harold P. and Celia M. Their second son is deceased.

Louis Tollefson, junior member of the law firm of Proctor & Tollefson, Viroqua, was born in Norway, in 1851. In 1861 he accompanied his parents to America, and to Allamakee Co., Iowa, where they made a settlement. In 1868 Mr. Tollefson went to La Crosse, Wis., where he was employed as a clerk for five years, and also took a full course in the commercial college. In 1874 he came to Viroqua and obtained employment as a clerk with J. Henry Tate, with whom he continued one year. The following summer he went to Lansing, Iowa, and was engaged in the lumber trade with a brother for a short time. Returning to Viroqua he embarked in the mercantile trade, which he continued till the spring of 1880. He then entered the law office of H. P. Proctor, was admitted to the bar in October, 1881, and has been a partner with his preceptor since that date. Mr. Tollefson is the only Norwegian attorney in Vernon county, and the firm enjoy an extensive and lucrative practice. Mr. Tollefson married Celia, daughter of J. W. Allen, ex-treasurer of Vernon county. She died March 12, 1883, leaving one son.

Charles W. Graves is the pioneer member of the law firm of Butt & Graves, and located here for practice in May, 1879. His father, Lewis W. Graves, Esq., was for twenty-five years a prominent member of the bar of Monroe Co., Wis. Charles W. was born at East Aurora, in Erie Co., N. Y., Nov. 29, 1854, and was a law student under his father for many years. He also studied a short time with A. E. Bleekman, Esq., of Sparta, Wis., and was admitted to practice in the circuit court at Sparta, Jan. 5, 1876. He there formed a law partnership with Fred T. Condit, which continued through 1876, and afterward with A. E. Bleekman. This latter tie was severed in 1879, and Mr. Graves came to Viroqua, where he has been in active practice since. His wife was formerly Ida Rea, a native of Oshkosh, Wis. They have two children—Earl W. and Ray.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

Before entering upon a consideration of the part taken by the citizen soldiers of Vernon county, in the great contest between the slave owners of the south and the lovers of freedom in the north, it is proper to dwell for a brief period upon the causes leading to the conflict of arms and the incipient steps taken by the general and State governments in arousing and marshalling the hosts of liberty-loving men who afterward so grandly kept step to the music of the Union.

WISCONSIN'S FIRST EFFORTS.

When Wisconsin was first called upon to aid the general government in its efforts to sustain itself against the designs of the secession conspirators, the commercial affairs of the State were embarrassed to a considerable degree by the depreciation of the currency. The designs of the secessionists were so far developed at the ending of the year 1860, as to show that resistance to the National authority had been fully determined on. It is not a matter of wonder, then, that Gov. Randall in his message to the Legislature, early in January, 1861, should have set forth the dangers which threatened the Union, or should have denied the right of a State to secede from it.

"Secession," said he, "is revolution; revolution is war; war against the government of the United States is treason." "It is time," he continued, "now, to know whether we have any government, and if so, whether it has any strength. Is our written constitution more than a sheet of parchment? The Nation must be lost or preserved by its own strength. Its strength is in the patriotism of the people. It is time now that politicians become patriots; that men show their love of country by every sacrifice, but that of principle, and by unwavering devotion to its interests and integrity." "The hopes," added the governor, most eloquently, "of civilization and Christianity are suspended now upon the answer to this question of dissolution. The capacity for, as well as the right of, self-government is to pass its ordeal, and speculation to become certainty. Other systems have been tried, and have failed; and all along the skeletons of Nations have been strewn, as warnings and land marks, upon the great highway of historic government. Wisconsin is true, and her people steadfast. She will not destroy the Union, nor consent that it shall be done. Devised by great, and wise, and good men, in days of sore trial, it must stand. Like some bold mountain, at whose base the great seas break their angry floods, and around whose summit the thunders of a thousand hurricanes have rattled—strong, unmoved, immovable—so may our Union, be, while treason surges at its base, and passions rage around it, unmoved, immovable—here let it stand forever."

These are the words of an exalted and genuine patriotism. But the governor did not content himself with eloquence alone. He came down to matters of business as well. He urged the necessity of legislation that would give more efficient organization to the militia of the State. He warned the legislators to make preparations also for the coming time that should try the souls of men. "The signs of the times," said he, "indicate that there may arise a contingency in the condition of the government, when it will become necessary to respond to a call of the National government for men and means to maintain the integrity of the Union, and to thwart the designs of men en-

gaged in organized treason. While no unnecessary expense should be incurred, yet it is the part of wisdom, both for individuals and States, in revolutionary times to be prepared to defend our institutions to the last extremity." It was thus the patriotic governor gave evidence to the members of both houses that he "scented the battle afar off."

On the 16th of January a joint resolution of the Legislature was passed, declaring that the people of Wisconsin are ready to co-operate with the friends of the Union everywhere for its preservation, to yield a cheerful obedience to its reqirements, and to demand a like obedience from all others; that the Legislature of Wisconsin, profoundly impressed with the value of the Union, and determined to preserve it unimpaired, hail with joy the recent firm, dignified and patriotic special message of the President of the United States; that they tender to him, through the chief magistrate of their own State, whatever aid, in men and money, may be required to enable him to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the Federal government and in defense of the more perfect Union, which has conferred prosperity and happiness on the American people. "Renewing," said they, "the pledge given and redeemed by our fathers, we are ready to devote our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors in upholding the Union and the constitution."

The Legislature, in order to put the State upon a kind of "war footing," passed an act for its defense, and to aid in enforcing the laws and maintaining the authority of the general government. It was under this act that Gov. Randall was enabled to organize the earlier regiments of Wisconsin. By it, in case of a call from the President of the United States to aid in maintaining the Union and the supremacy of the laws to suppress rebellion or insurrection, or to repel invasion within the United States, the governor was authorized to provide in the most efficient manner for responding to such call—to accept the services of volunteers for service, in companies of seventy-five men each, rank and file, and in regiments of ten companies of seventy-five men each, and to commission officers for them. The governor was also authorized to contract for the uniforms and equipments necessary for putting such companies into active service. $100,000 was appropriated for war purposes; and bonds were authorized to be issued for that amount, to be negotiated by the governor for raising funds. It will be seen, therefore, that the exigencies of the times—for Fort Sumter had not yet been surrendered—were fully met by the people's representatives, they doing their whole duty, as they then understood it, in aid of the perpetuity of the Union.

Having defended Fort Sumter for thirty-four hours, until the quarters were entirely burned, the main gates destroyed, the gorge-wall seriously injured, the magazine surrounded by flames, and its door closed from the effects of the heat, four barrels and three cartridges of powder only being available, and no provisions but pork remaining, Robert Anderson, major of the first artillery, United States army, accepted terms of evacuation offered by Gen. Beauregard, marched out of the Fort on Sunday afternoon, the 14th of April, 1861, with colors flying and drums beating, bringing away company and private property, and saluting his flag with fifty guns. This in brief, is the story of the fall of Sumter and the opening act of the War of the Rebellion.

"Whereas," said Abraham Lincoln, President, in his proclamation of the next day, "the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are, opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law." Now, in view of that fact, he called forth the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress those combina-

tions, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. "A call is made on you by to-night's mail for one regiment of militia for immediate service," telegraphed the secretary of war to Randall, on the same day.

THE STATE AROUSED.

In Wisconsin, as elsewhere, the public pulse quickened under the excitement of the fall of Sumter. "The dangers which surrounded the Nation awakened the liveliest sentiments of patriotism and devotion. For the time, party fealty was forgotten in the general desire to save the Nation. The minds of the people soon settled into the conviction that a bloody war was at hand, and that the glorious fabric of our National government, and the principles upon which it is founded, were in jeopardy, and with a determination unparalleled in the history of any country, they rushed to its defense. On every hand the National flag could be seen displayed, and the public enthusiam knew no bounds. In city, town and hamlet, the burden on every tounge was war." "We have never been accustomed," said Gov. Randall, "to consider the military arm as essential to the maintenance of our government, but an exigency has arisen that demands its employment." "The time has come," he continued, "when parties and platforms must be forgotten, and all good citizens and patriots unite together in putting down rebels and traitors." "What is money," he asked, "what is life, in the presence of such a crisis?"

Such utterances and such enthusiasm could but have their effect upon the Legislature, which, it will be remembered, was still in session. So, although that body had voted to adjourn, *sine die*, on the 15th of April, yet, when the moment arrived, and a message from the governor was received, announcing that, owing to the extraordinary exigencies which had arisen, an amendment of the law of the thirteenth of the month was necessary, the resolution to adjourn was at once rescinded. The two houses thereupon not only increased the amount of bonds to be issued to $200,000, but they also passed a law exempting from civil process, during the time of service, all persons enlisting and mustering into the United States army from Wisconsin. When, on the seventeenth, the Legislature did adjourn, the scene was a remarkable one. Nine cheers were given for the star spangled banner and three for the Governor's Guard, who had just then tendered their services—the first in the State—under the call for a regiment of men for three months duty.

"For the first time in the history of this Federal government, are the words of the governor, in a proclamation issued on the 16th of April, "organized treason has manifested itself within several States of the Union, and armed rebels are making war against it." "The treasurers of the country," said he, "must no longer be plundered; the public property must be protected from aggressive violence; that already seized must be retaken, and the laws must be executed in every State of the Union alike." "A demand," he added, "made upon Wisconsin, by the President of the United States, for aid to sustain the Federal arm, must meet with a prompt response." And it did, and no where with more genuine enthusiasm than in Vernon county.

VERNON COUNTY AWAKENED.

The county of Vernon was not slow to move when it was clearly seen by her citizens that the Union was in deed and in truth threatened by armed rebellion and avowed secession. "The rebellion of the slave holders," said the Northwestern *Times*, of April 24, 1861, "of the seceding States has now reached actual war against the loyal citizens of the United States. The property of every citizen of this great republic has been attacked, because every citizen is a part of the government which has a property interest in Fort Sumter, which fort has been cannonaded and probably taken by the rebels at Charleston."

"The President of the United States," continues the *Times*, "has called for 75,000 volun-

teers, and will probably need more; and Gov. Randall of this State calls on all loyal citizens to sustain the laws. He also calls for volunteers in companies of seventy-five men each to enroll themselves and report to him their readiness to serve." "Every lover of free institutions," concludes the writer, "the world over, every loyal citizen of the United States, expects every man to do his whole duty, in the war that has just been commenced by the South Carolina traitors."

VERNON COUNTY'S FIRST WAR MEETING.

The first war meeting in Vernon county was held at Viroqua, on Wednesday, April 24, 1861, in the evening, at the court house. At this meeting, the following gentlemen were appointed to collect funds to procure music for the company being organized in Viroqua, and to maintain their families while they were gone to help the General Government put down the secession rebellion at the south: Thomas Fretwell, J. A. Somerby, J. E. Newell, Dr. J. Rusk, Dr. E. W. Tinker, Justice Smith and Calvin Morley.

The meeting adjourned to Saturday evening, April 27th, when a very enthusiastic time was had. Henry Nichols was elected president, William Clawater, vice-president, and T. C. Ankeny, secretary.

On Motion, Col. R. C. Bierce, J. Somerby and Wm. H. Goode were appointed a committee to draft and report resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the people of Bad Ax county, on the subject of the present State of the Union. The committee appointed at a previous meeting to obtain subscriptions to support a volunteer company and their families, reported $117 already obtained and that progress was making for additional sums.

On motion, enough funds were appropriated to purchase a good fife and snare drum and the committee were instructed to purchase the same at their earliest convenience. It was further ordered that 20 per cent be paid in at once on subscription.

The committee on resolutions reported the following which were unanimously adopted:

"We the people of Bad Ax county, in war meeting assembled, irrespective of party, for the purpose of declaring our sentiments on the present state of the affairs of the Nation, do hereby declare as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That secession is not a constitutional right, and that we look upon the present attitude of the pretended seceded States as one of rebellion coupled with the fixed determination to crush out the spirit of liberty and substitute in its place, the spirit of slavery.

2. *Resolved*, That, under ordinary circumstances, we believe in allowing the utmost freedom of speech and the press, but in the present hour of our country's peril, we declare we will not permit any man in our midst to openly declare in favor of the right of secession, or advocate the cause of traitors and rebels against the Federal government.

3. *Resolved*, That, to our old flag of stars and stripes, we owe all our property and our honor, and we hereby renew our allegiance and fidelity to it, and express our determination to never stand idly by and see it trailed in the dust.

4. *Resolved*, That, like our fathers of old, we here pledge, in support of our constitution and our flag, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

5. *Resolved*, That we sympathize with the Union men of the south, and will do all in our power to ameliorate their condition.

The meeting was then warmly addressed by William Clawater, R. C. Bierce, T. C. Ankeny, Gen. Spencer, Adj't. J. Berry, William F. Terhune, H. Greve and others. The utmost unanimity of feeling, sentiment and enthusiasm prevailed among the speakers, and they were enthusiastically cheered by the large audience present.

On motion, William Clawater, C. A. Hunt, Gen. Spencer, C. M. Butt, J. Berry, J. C. Berry, William Joseph, Albert Bliss and Capt. C. B.

Worth, were appointed a committee to receive the names of volunteers and report immediately.

On motion, Gen. Spencer, T. C. Ankeny, W. S. Purdy were appointed a committee to procure martial music for the next meeting.

On motion, William Clawater, R. C. Bierce and George Pollard were appointed a committee to procure a cannon and have it at the next meeting.

On motion, J. Berry was appointed to drill the volunteers on Saturday next.

The meeting then adjourned. The names of persons enrolled as volunteers were as follows: C. M. Butt, T. C. Ankeny, J. L. Somerly, H. E. Pettit, W. E. Minshall, John Allison, L. M. Boughton, William Clawater, H. M. Richardson, C. S. Lisenbee.

The movement at Viroqua, was followed on May 1, 1861, by a

WAR MEETING IN DE SOTO.

Pursuant to a call issued, a meeting was held at the Bay State house by the citizens of De Soto, and the following business transacted: The meeting was called to order by C. B. Whiting, and on motion, N. S. Cate was chosen chairman and Frank Huntington, secretary. Mr. Cate, upon taking the chair, stated the object of the meeting to be for the purpose of enrolling a company for active service in the cause of our country, and also to take measures thought best to get up an independent company, for drill and military exercise, subject to the military laws of the State.

Remarks were made by C. B. Whiting, C. L. Ingersoll, D. S. Mulhern and others. Thereupon George Gale, George H. Mead, Andrew Miller, James Davenport, George McDill and M. Godfrey expressed their willingness to volunteer immediately. A. Cooley offered his drum to Mr. Godfrey, if he did not conclude to go himself.

On motion of Capt. C. B. Worth, a committee of three were chosen to draw up a paper and solicit subscriptions for the relief of the families of those who may volunteer from this place. The committee drew up a paper which was read and accepted, and ordered to be circulated.

On motion of George McDill, a committee of three were appointed to make arrangements to form a volunteer company. C. L. Ingersoll, H. Miller and J. C. Kurtz were appointed. On motion of J. C. Kurtz, C. B. Whiting and A. Carlyle were added to the committee. The committee on subscriptions soon reported $1,396, subscribed. Meeting adjourned.

On the 4th of May, the Viroqua *Expositor* said: "The greatest enthusiasm prevails here among the people in reference to preserving the Union, enforcing the laws and subduing rebellion. It is commendable on the part of some of our good citizens, who are taking an active part in shaping every advantage in their power to raise and equip a company in this county, to be ready to do or die at their country's bidding." "A meeting has been called to take place to-day," continues the editor, "for the purpose of enlisting soldiers, and further, to do their duty as loyal citizens of a commonwealth and patriots in a common cause."

From this time onward, frequent meetings were held in different parts of the county. Finally, the result was the formation of the first company, wholly within the county for the war, known afterward as

COMPANY I, SIXTH REGIMENT.

This company was organized at Viroqua, in June, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service in Madison, on the 21st of July, with the following roster of offices and enlisted men :

Captain.—Leonard Johnson.
1st Lieutenant.—F. A. Haskell.
2d Lieutenant.—A. T. Johnson.
1st Sergeant.—Levi N. Tongue.
2d " James E. Newell.
3d " William Clawater.
4th " Henry Didiot.
5th " J. S. Driggs.

1st Corporal.—William Fox.
2d " John Luke.
3d " Clayton E. Rogers.
4th " John M. Brigham.
5th " Andrew Miller.
6th " C. A. Green.
7th " Thomas W. McClure.
8th " Edwin T. Fearn.

Musicians.—Robert N. Smith,
Samuel Walker.

Wagoner.—James R. Lyon.

Privates.—Thomas W. Allen, Gilbert L. Allen, George W. Atwood, Charles F. Bohn, Elias C. Burdick, Charles Birnbaum, Nathan Burchell, Lewis M. Boughton, Thomas W. Barcus, Edward L. Briggs, Daniel Campfield, Charles E. Carnes, Wm. S. Cushing, Charles A. Conklin, Lawson Davis, George W. Douglas, Franklin Elsworth, Charles Evritt, Oliver P. Fretwell, Rodolph Fine, Abijah Fox, Dewitt C. Fenton, James Fairman, Chester A. Green, John M. Goodwin, Alexander Graham, John Harland, John F. Harding, Wm. H. Hauckabout, Ichobod B. Hill, Lewis Hart, Abel H. Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Henry Jones, Charles O. Jones, John W. Longmire, Charles Lind, Edward Lind, Alexander Lowrie, Sidney B. Lovlin, Wm. Lawrence, Wm. Moore, Peter S. Markle, Wm. A. Mattison, Wm. E. Minchell, James McClain, Hugh F. McClure, George D. McDill, Thomas Newton, Wm. H. Nichols, Daniel W. Nutting, Levi Pearson, Charles F. Page, Aldrich W. Rodgers, Earl M. Rogers, Hiram M. Richardson, Wm. L. Riley, George Robins, Daniel Remington, Gabriel A. Ruby, Levi Steadman, George W. Sutton, Gotfriel Shriver, Caleb Shrieves, John L. Somerby, Wm. H. Sweet, Wm. Sears, Edward E. Sears, Milton Southwick, Alfred Thompson, George W. Thompson, Reuben Thompson, George W. Thurber, Levi Tongue, John T. Willey, Frolan Willey, Chester A. Wyman, Joseph Wood, Isaiah Williams, James C. Wallace, Caleb Wright, Samuel G. Wallar, Francis A. Wallar and Richard A. Warraham.

Recruits.—William Balden, James O. Burrell, Albert E. Fosdick, Henry A. Fosdick, John H. Hendrickson, Wm. H. Johnson, Wm. L. Lindsley, Eli Rockwell, James A. Stalker and Valentine Warner

This company was made a part of

THE SIXTH WISCONSIN REGIMENT,

which was organized at Camp Randall, Madison, in July, 1861, and mustered into the service of the United States on the 16th of that month, and left the State for Washington on the 28th. The following was the roster of the regiment:

Colonel.—Lysander Cutler.
Lieutenant Colonel.—J. P. Atwood.
Major.—B. F. Sweet.
Adjutant.—Frank A. Haskell.
Quartermaster.—I. N. Mason.
Surgeon.—C. B. Chapman.
First Assistant Surgeon.—A. W. Preston.
Second Assistant Surgeon.—A. P. Andrews.
Chaplain.—Rev. N. A. Staples.
Captain Co. A.—A. G. Mallory.
" " B—D. J. Dill.
" " C—A. S. Hove.
" " D—J. O'Rourke.
" " E—E. S. Bragg.
" " F—William H. Lindwurm.
" " G—M. A. Northrup.
" " H—J. F. Houser.
" " I—Leonard Johnson.
" " K—R. R. Dawes.
First Lieutenant Co. A—D. K. Noyes.
" " " B—J. F. Marsh.
" " " C—P. W. Plumer.
" " " D—John Nichols.
" " " E—E. A. Brown.
" " " F—Fred Schumacher.
" " " G—G. L. Montague.
" " " H—J. D. Lewis.
" " " I—F. A. Haskell.
" " " K—J. A. Kellogg.
2d Lieutenant Co. A—F. C. Thomas.
" " " B—Henry Serrill.
" " " C—J. W. Plummer.

2d	Lt.	Co.	D—P. H. McCauley.
"	"	"	E—J. H. Marston.
"	"	"	F—Werner Von Bacheli.
"	"	"	G—W. W. Allen.
"	"	"	H—J. A. Tester.
"	"	"	I—A. T. Johnson.
"	"	"	K—John Crane.

The regiment arrived at Washington on the 7th of August, and was immediately assigned to King's brigade and went into camp on Meridian Hill, where it remained until the 3d of September, when it marched with the brigade to Chain Bridge, and was employed in picket and guard duty at Camp Lyon, until it was joined by the 2d Wisconsin, the 9th Indiana, and the 7th Wisconsin about the 1st of October. These, afterward, formed the famous

IRON BRIGADE.

Early in the war Gen. Rufus King, a graduate of West Point, tendered his services to the government and was appointed brigadier general, with authority to form a brigade composed of regiments from Wisconsin. In this he only partially succeeded, as the 5th Wisconsin was transferred to another brigade. He, however, succeeded in permanently attaching the 2d, 6th and 7th to the brigade; these, with the 19th Indiana, afterward received the name of the "Iron Brigade," in the history of which is merged that of the 6th Wisconsin.

The brigade assigned to McDowell's division remained in camp at Fort Tillinghast until March 10, 1862, when they took part in the advance on Manassas, Col. Cutler, of the 6th Wisconsin, being in command of the brigade. The month of July found them at Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg. The brigade afterward took part in the celebrated retreat of Gen. Pope.

On the 28th of August, 1862, the battle of Gainesville was fought. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and was fought by the "Iron Brigade" alone, it only receiving aid after the heaviest of the fighting was over. In this battle company I lost Privates Henry Didiot, Charles Burnham, Franklin Ellsworth and George Robbins, killed.* On the 29th of August the brigade was present on the battle field of Bull Run, engaged as support to a battery, and took part in the battle of the 30th and in the retreat which followed. Company I lost Private Rodolph Fine, killed: the wounded were Sergeant E. F. Fearn, Corporal R. Warham, Privates Alexander Lowrie, E. C. Burdick, J. B. Hill, E. Lind, F. Page, J. L. Somerby, C. C. Wyman, Caleb Wright, S. G. Waller, Gilbert Allen, Hugh McClure, G. Ruby, George Sutton and Lewis Broughton.

The "Iron Brigade" took part in the battle of South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862, in which contest Privates William Lawrence and John Harding, of company I, of the 6th Wisconsin, were killed. The wounded in this company were: Corporal C. Green, Privates M. Richardson, G. Ruby, L. Steadman, C. Bohn and H. McClure. In the early part of the battle of Antietam (which contest was participated in, among others, by the "Iron Brigade"), a shell fell into the ranks of the 6th regiment, killing or wounding thirteen men and officers. In this battle company I, of the 6th regiment, lost Privates George W. Atwood, George Douglas and William Fox, killed, and Corporals J. Williams and C. O. Jones, and Privates N. Burchel, W. T. Barcus, C. Carnes, L. Davis, L. Hart, C. Lind, D. W. Nutting and H. M. Richardson, wounded.

General Hooker was placed in command of the Army of the Potomac, and the campaign of 1863 was begun, on the 28th of April. The "Iron Brigade" proceeded on that day to Fitzhugh's Crossing below Fredericksburg, and was attached to the first division of the first army corps. A fight occurred the next day at the crossing, but the 6th Wisconsin, followed by the 24th Michigan, crossed over in face of the enemy and carried their works. In this daring exploit company I lost Corporal Gabriel

*In this battle, and in those hereafter mentioned, in which company I were engaged, the number given as killed includes also such as died of wounds.

A. Ruby, and Privates Charles A. Conklin, killed, and J. L. Stedman, wounded.

The "Iron Brigade" was in the terrible battle of Gettysburg, where company I, of the 6th regiment, lost in killed: First Sergeant Andrew Miller, privates S. M. Boughton, John Hailand, George W. Sutter, Richard Gray and Levi Stedman; wounded, Corporal S. Goodwin, Privates, J. B. Hill, C. O. Jones, E. Lind, William Sweet, G. Shriver, G. Thurbur and S. Walles. But it was in the battle of the Wilderness that the 6th regiment suffered more than in any other of the war. The loss of company I was as follows: killed—Corporal William H. Nichols; Privates, Leroy L. Benedict, William R. Carnes, C. F. Dibble, John P. Johnson, Reuben Thompson, William M. Collins, Dewitt C. Fenton, Richard Gray, Peter S. Markle, Clark Smith and Caleb C. Wright; wounded—Sergeant W. H. Hockabout; Corporals J. S. Driggs, William S. Cushing and Ichabod B. Hill; Privates, Gilbert L. Allen, Nathan Birchell, Hiram M. Richardson, Isaac W. Roberts, John C. Barry, Harman Cole, John C. Moody, Edward Willard, John C. Campbell, Abraham Searles, David Lind, John W. White and John D. Oliver.

The severity of the service engaged in by the 6th Wisconsin from this time until it was mustered out, can be judged of by the lists of the killed and wounded at different periods; but we must be confined to a statement of those who suffered in company I. This company, from June 11 to July 1, 1864, had Sergeant Chester A. Green; Privates, Christian Hopp, Joseph A. Johnson and Charles Cuppernall, killed; and in August following, Private Thomas White. In the battle of Dabneys' Mill, on the 6th and 7th of February, 1865, company I lost, in killed, Privates Caleb C. Ellis and Marcus D. Carter.

In the short campaign from March 29 to April 9, company I, of the 6th, for a wonder, had none killed, though other companies in the same regiment did not fare so well.

The 6th regiment was mustered out on the 14th of July, 1865, and arrived at Madison on the 16th of that month, and were publicly received, paid, and the regiment disbanded.

Having briefly traced the fortunes of company I, of the 6th Wisconsin during the war, we now proceed to give some facts concerning the second company raised wholly in Vernon county. This was

COMPANY C, 18TH REGIMENT.

"Bad Ax Tigers."

This company was organized at Viroqua, in December, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service at Milwaukee Jan. 19, 1862, with the following roster of officers and enlisted men:

Captain—Newton M. Layne.
1st Lieutenant—John H. Graham.
2d " —Allen A. Burnett.
1st Sergeant—Samuel Swan.
2d " William N. Carter, Sr.
3rd " Robert S. McMichael.
4th " John S. Dickson.
5th " Calvin Morley.
1st Corporal—Danford J. Spear.
2d " Joseph H. Brightman.
3rd " Ranson J. Chase.
4th " William Cox.
5th " Roswell F. Corey.
6th " Gould Hickok.
7th " Samuel McMichael.
8th " Joseph Buckley.
Musicians—John M. Stokes, Aaron Cooley.
Wagoner.—Thomas J. Decker.

Privates.—David Aarnott, Levi E. Baker, Henry S. Baker, Daniel D. Bates, Levi B. Bugbee, Nathan Bankes, Lawrence Broderick, Azariah Brown, William Clarey, Edwin E. Crandall, William N. Carter, Jr., George Chadeayne, Peter S. Campbell, Henry Clarey, Travers Day, William W. Dickeman, William Downie, Leonard C. Davis, William M. Delap, Martin V. Day, William Daily, Thomas J. Davis, Samuel Fish, Bardett Fletcher, Elijah Forsythe, Thomas Fretwell, Joseph G. Gander,

Robert E. Graham, Noah Garrett, Benjamin Greenman, Cleason B. Guist, John S. Gray, William Hunter, Benjamin F. Harris, Henry Johnson, John Jones, John Kirkpatrick, William Kettle, John Kingston, Christopher Koher. Harvey D. Lindley, William Loucks, John C. Metcalf, Hiram Moody, John B. Merrill, William A. Masterson, Patrick Mooney, James McClelland, Daniel Mosholder, Nelson Mills, Archer J. Morrison, Bazzle Munion, Julius C. Morley, Isaac C. Newell, Walter W. Odell, Lawrence H. Page, Jasper N. Powell, Sanford C. Prince, Lauphlin Quinn, Daniel Rantz, Benjamin F. Rantz, Charles H. Raynor, John J. Ross, Henry V. Swain, Allen L. Swain, John J. Swain, Samuel Sayer, Augustus Singer, Philip Singer, John Stokes, Norris W. Saxton, John H. Singles, William P. Starrick, George W. Taylor, Orrin Tooker, William H. Thompson, James Williams, Parley Whitney; making total original membership ninety-seven.

The company was recruited by volunteers and draft as follows:

John Carpenter, David Caulkins, John L. Cheney, Robert Campbell, Edward Carey, Charles Brown, Leonard Bankes, William Dennison, Benjamin Evans, Elijah S. Frazier, James Garber, Legrand Hickok, William M. Hall, John M. Herron, Theodore F. Hart, Byron W. Johnson, James Kingston, Alfred S. Soper, Peter D. Soper, Charles W. Miller, Samuel W. Moore, Richard Miers, Edward Owens, Samuel Pokrand, Simeon Powell, John Pennell, Edward Rogers, George M Rogers, Merrick Rogers, Harrison Sayer, Nathaniel Shepherd, Henry Sharpe, Isaac Sharpe, Gilbert Stewart, Evan Thomas, Isaac Taylor, Albert D. Welsh, James Young.

The following members of this company were killed in action: William Kettle, Shiloh; Norris W. Saxton, Shiloh; John H. Singles, Allatoona; William Downie, Corinth.

The following died of disease: Captain N. M. Layne; Sergeant Samuel Swan; Sergeant Thomas Fretwell; Corporal Samuel McMichael; Corporal John B. Merrill; Privates: Levi E. Allen, George Chadeayne, Travers Day, Elijah Forsyth, Joseph G. Gander, John S. Gray, Noah Garrett, William Hunter, Byron W. Johnson, James McClelland, Lawrence Page, William P. Starbuck, Nathaniel Shepherd, Wm. H. Thompson, Orrin Tooker, Isaac Taylor, Julius C. Nurley.

Company C formed a part of

THE 18TH WISCONSIN REGIMENT.

was organized at Camp Trowbridge, Milwaukee, under the supervision of Colonel James S. Alban, early in the year 1862, and its muster into the United States service was completed on the 15th of March of that year. The regiment left the State on the 30th, with orders to report at St. Louis. The following was the regimental roster:

Colonel.—James S. Alban.
Lieutenant-Colonel.—Samuel W. Beall.
Major.—J. W. Crain.
Adjutant.—Gilbert L. Park.
Quartermaster.—Jeremiah D. Rogers.
Surgeon.—George F. Huntington.
First Assistant Surgeon.—Larkin G. Mead.
Chaplain.—Rev. James Delany.
Captain Co. A.—James P. Millard.
" " B.—Charles A. Jackson.
" " C.—Newton M. Layne.
" " D.—George A. Fisk.
" " E.—William Bremmer.
" " F.—Joseph W. Roberts.
" " G.—John H. Compton.
" " H.—David H. Saxton.
" " I.—William A. Coleman.
" " K.—William J. Kershaw.
First Lieutenant Co. A.—Edward Colman.
" " " B.—Thomas A. Jackson
" " " C.—John H. Graham.
" " " D.—D. W. C. Wilson.
" " " E.—G. R. Walbridge.
" " " F.—George Stokes.
" " " G.—Frederick B. Case.
" " " H.—S. D. Woodworth.
" " " I.—Ira H. Ford.
" " " K.—Alexander Jackson.

Robert Sandon

2d Lieutenant, Co. A—Thomas J. Potter.
" " " B—Samuel B. Boynton.
" " " C—Allen A. Burnett.
" " " D—Peter Sloggy.
" " " E—Luman H. Carpenter.
" " " F—George A. Topliff.
" " " G—James R. Scott.
" " " H—Thomas H. Wallace.
" " " I—Ogden A. Southmayd.
" " " K—Phineas A. Bennett.

The regiment arrived at St. Louis on the evening of the 31st of March, 1862, and next day were ordered to proceed up the Tennessee river to Pittsburg Landing. Arriving at the landing about noon of Saturday, April 5, they were assigned to the command of Gen. Prentiss, which was then in the extreme advance, about four miles on the Corinth road.

No sooner had the 18th Wisconsin reached its position on the Corinth road under Gen. Prentiss, than they found themselves confronted by the enemy. In brief they had a position of extreme danger, as the enemy were marching in force against the Union army, and early on Sunday, the day after the arrival of the regiment, the battle of Pittsburg Landing began. The result is far more than a "twice told tale." Col. James A. Alban was shot through the body, and Maj. J. W. Crain was killed with eight wounds on his person. Lieut.-Col. Samuel W. Beall and Acting Adjutant Colman were both severely wounded, and Capt. John H. Compton, company G, was killed. Company C lost its captain, Newton M. Layne, taken prisoner; privates William Kettle and N. W. Saxton, killed;* and privates A. Clary, W. W. Dielhman, Samuel Fisk, John Kirkpatrick, Hiram Moody, Patrick Mooney, Laughlin Quinn, Benjamin Rantz, J. J. Swain, Samuel Sager and Augustus Singer, wounded.

Capt. Gabriel Bouck, of the 2d Wisconsin, succeeded to the colonelcy of the 18th Wisconsin, and the regiment was assigned to the second brigade, commanded by Colonel Oliver. In the vicinity of Corinth, Col. Bouck, early in October, 1862, was attacked by an overwhelming force of the enemy, but the 18th escaped though with some loss. Company C had privates Robert E. Graham and William Downie wounded. The 18th left Corinth on the 2d of November.

In May, 1863, the 18th regiment had been assigned to the first brigade, commanded by Col. Sanborn, in Gen. Crocker's division, of the seventeenth army corps. At the battle of Champion Hills, private Bent Markison was wounded. The regiment acted as sharpshooters in the assault of the 22d of May, at Vicksburg, to hold a position in front of a rebel fort, and cover the advance of the assaulting column. In this movement company C met with no casuality.

On the 4th of January, 1864, Col. Bouck resigned. Lieut.-Col. Beall had resigned the previous August. The regiment was mustered out of the service at Louisville, July 18, 1865, and reached Madison on the 29th, where they were publicly received and disbanded.

The next Vernon county company was the one subsequently known as

COMPANY A, TWENTY-FIFTH WISCONSIN.

This company was organized at Viroqua, in August, 1862, and was mustered into the United States service as a part of the 25th Wisconsin regiment, in La Crosse, on the 14th of September, 1862.

The following was the muster-in roll of company A:

Captain—James Berry.
1st Lieutenant—Cyrus M. Butt.
2d Lieutenant—(John R. Casson was promoted to this office Sept. 15, 1862).
1st Sergeant—Warren G. Davis.
2d " John R. Casson.
3d " Isaiah Ferrill.
4th " John Williams.
5th " Robb E. McCrellis.
1st Corporal—James Miller.
2d " Henry Waters.

* In this battle and in those hereafter mentioned, in which Company C were engaged, the number given as killed include such as died of wounds.

3d Corporal, Justus Smith.
4th " David C. Yakee.
5th " Amasa B. Sexton.
6th " Isaac L. Smith.
7th " John W. Church.
8th " John A. Ferguson.

Privates—Jonathan Adams, Alfred Adams, Orrin Ames, Alexander M. Asberry, Peter D. Bartholomew, Jason Baldwin, Christopher C. Baker, Charles Barstow, Alfred Bartholomew, Abraham Benn, Mitchel Beck, Amon Beddison, Russell S. Bundy, Isaac M. C. Burcham, William M. Chambers, Henry Chandler, William F. C. Coard, Philo Curley, William T. Cummings, George W. Cummings, Lysander Dalton, Joshua Douglas, John E. Davis, Charles W. Delap, John Dewitt, Thomas E. Engle, Robert L. Ferguson, William H. Foreaker, John Garrett, Philip Gieser, James W. Gilman, Britton L. Gillett, Perley Grubb, George F. Green, John Graham, Henry N. Hadley, Moses E. Hadley, Nelson D. Hale, William F. Hanchett, George W. Hope, David C. Hope, Edward F. Huntington, Henry Humphrey, William B. U. Hunter, Peter Jacobus, William Jonas, James L. Jordan, James H. Layne, Edwin K. Loring, James Mains, John Marshall, Manasah McClurg, James Mason, Peter S. Moore, Alexander Morrison, Eli Osborn, William Pidcock, George T. Pidcock, George J. Pierce, George Pulver, Franklin Ranger, William R. Rees, William C. Reed, Thomas H. Reed, Martin V. B. Richards, Amos A. Richardson, Ezra A. Roberts, Benjamin F. Roberts, Frederic S. Roe, Merritt Rowe, James H. Rogers, James F. Rhoe, John R. Rundle, Ira H. Sanford, Harvey Sewell, Nicholas V. Sharp, Finley Smith, Nathaniel H. Smith, Hiram Steadman, Silas H. Stricker, Freeman Sutton, Gilman Tenney, Charles H. Tilden, Vesparian W. Whitney, Ira Wisel, William S. Waters, Samuel Darnell, Arthur Gill.

The history of company A, is, of course, merged in that of

THE 25TH REGIMENT.

This regiment was organized at Camp Solomon, La Crosse, in September, 1862, and mustered into the United States service on the 14th of that month, and was ordered to report to Gen. Pope, at St. Paul, to aid in suppressing the Indian difficulties in the State of Minnesota. They left the State on the 15th, with the following roster:

Colonel—Milton Montgomery.
Lieutenant Colonel—Samuel J. Nasmith.
Major—Jeremiah M. Rusk.
Adjutant—George G. Symes.
Quartermaster—William H. Downs.
Surgeon—Martin R. Gage.
1st Assistant Surgeon—Jacob McCreary.
2d Assistant Surgeon—William A. Gott.
Chaplain—Rev. T. C. Golden.
Captain Co. A—James Berry.
" " B—William H. Joslyn.
" " C—H. D. Faryuharson.
" " D—James D. Condit.
" " E—John D. Scott.
" " F—James C. Farrand.
" " G—Viruz W. Dorwin.
" " H—Ziba S. Swan.
" " I—Robert Nash.
" " K—Robert M. Gordon.
First Lieutenant Co. A—Cyrus M. Butt.
" " " B—William Roush.
" " " C—L. S. Mason.
" " " D—M. E. Leonard.
" " " E—John W. Smelker
" " " F—Parker C. Dunn.
" " " G—John W. Brackett
" " " H—Chas. F. Olmstead
" " " I—Daniel N. Smalley
" " " K—Charles A. Hunt.
Second Lieut. Co. A—John R. Casson.
" " " B—William H. Bennett.
" " " C—Thomas Barnett.
" " " D—Charles S. Farnam.
" " " E—John M. Shaw.
" " " F—Oscar E. Foote.
" " " G—Robert J. Whittleton.
" " " H—Henry C. Wise.
" " " I—John T. Richards.
" " " K—Lewis F. Grow.

Arriving at St. Paul on the 20th of September, 1862, the regiment was divided, five companies under Lieut.-Col. Nasmith, being sent to Sauk Center, Painsville and Acton; the remainder, under the command of Col. Montgomery, was sent to Leavenworth, Fairmount, Winnebago City and New Ulm, where regimental headquarters were established.

After service in Minnesota, the regiment returned to Wisconsin, reaching Camp Randall on the 18th of December, 1862. On the 17th of February, 1863, the regiment left, under orders to report at Cairo, Ill., where they arrived on the 19th, and moved next day to Columbus, Ky., and encamped. Here the regiment was attached to the 16th army corps. From this time until August, which month found the regiment at Helena, they were variously employed. Lieut.-Col. Samuel J. Nasmith died of disease contracted in the service on the 17th of August, and Maj. Rusk was appointed lieutenant colonel in his place. The regiment remained at Helena until the 1st of February, 1864, when they moved down the river to Vicksburg.

The regiment reached Chattanooga May 5th and immediately proceeded to join the forces of Gen. Sherman. The sixteenth corps formed part of the "Army of the Tennessee" under Gen. McPherson. On the 9th of the month they took part in a movement against Resaca, which was renewed on the 14th, with the following casualities to company A:

Private Perley. B. Grubb killed; Sergt. J. Williams and Private A. A. Richardson wounded. In attacking the enemy at Peach Orchard on the 15th of June Lieut.-Col. Rusk was wounded in the right arm.

On the 19th of July the sixteenth army corps was at Decatur. About noon on the 22d three regiments commanded by Col. Sprague were attacked by two divisions of Wheeler's dismounted cavalry. Col. Montgomery, with a force composed of companies B, E, F and I of the 25th Wisconsin, and four companies of the 63d Ohio, was ordered out to ascertain the position of the enemy. They advanced about three-fourths of a mile up a road, on the west of which was a narrow but impassable swamp, and on the other a deep, miry ditch. The enemy were met about half a mile from the swamp, by the skirmishers, consisting of company F and an Ohio company, under command of Lieut.-Col. Rusk. The enemy opened a severe fire and the skirmishers were driven down the road back to the reserve, which, under Col. Montgomery, was in position to the left of the road.

The enemy advancing in strong force, Col. Montgomery moved the reserve by the left flank, and in attempting to cross the ditch to reach the battery in the rear, his horse sank in the miry ground, and he was shot by the enemy and captured. Lieut.-Col. Rusk, with the skirmishers, held the enemy in check for a short time on the road, but were soon obliged to retire. In attempting to do this Lieut.-Col. Rusk was surrounded by six or eight rebels, who came at him with bayonets at a charge. One of them made a dash at him and caught his sword, which hung in its scabbord by his side, the squad crying out for the "Yankee" to surrender. The lieutenant-colonel made a characteristic reply and very coolly pressed his revolver to the side of the head of the rebel and gave him its contents. In falling, the fellow still held to the sword, which broke from its fastening. Putting spurs to his horse, the lieutenant-colonel dashed down the road, under the fire of the rebels, to which he replied with his revolver and succeeded in rejoining his regiment near the battery in the rear, not, however, until he had his horse shot from under him.

On the 15th of November, 1864, the seventeenth army corps left Atlanta on the grand march to the sea, the 21st acting as a train guard, as far as Monticello, when they rejoined their brigade. At Beaufert, Col. Montgomery, who had been exchanged, returned to the army and was placed in command of the brigade.

On the Salkahatchie river, on the 20th of January, 1865, the 25th encountered the enemy, drove in his pickets and dislodged a small force behind temporary breastworks. A shell from the enemy grazed the head of the horse of Lieut.-Col. Rusk, knocking the animal down, and the colonel was dismounted, the orderly in the rear having his head carried away by the missile. The regiment was mustered out of the service on the 7th of June and set out for home, arriving at Madison on tne 11th of that month, where they were soon paid off and disbanded.

VERNON COUNTY'S ROLL OF HONOR.

The following are all the citizen soldiers of Vernon county, so far as they can now be ascertained, arranged under the towns in which they lived at the time of their enlistment:

[Those marked (a) were killed in action; (b), died of wounds received in action; (c), died of disease; (d), died prisoners of war; (e), killed by accident on railroad.]

TOWN OF BERGEN.

Eighth Infantry, Co. F: John W. Greenman, Corporal.

Ninth Infantry, Co. C, Vet.: Joseph Broockech.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. A: Philip Berry.

Fourteenth Infantry, Co. D: John B. Glenn. (*a*), Frederick W. C. Kock, (*b*), Patrick Asley.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: John Kingston, Sergeant; John L. Cheney, John S. Gray, (*d*), Benjamin Greenman, Simon Powell.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: Philip Berry, Robert T. McClurg.

Thirty-Fourth Infantry, Co. A: Thomas Briss, Emanuel Briss.

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. F: George Bawkus, Edwin Drew, Listen B. Waller.

Forty-Fifth Infantry, Co. K: Isaiah G. Page.

First Heavy Artillery, Co. H: William C. Hallenbeck, Isaac Quackenbush.

TOWN OF CHRISTIANA.

Third Infantry, Co. H: Thomas Slagg, Captain.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: John C. Barry, corporal; Hollis W. Bishop, (*d*), William R. Carnes, Albert Emons, (*c*), Daniel Taylor.

Thirteenth Infantry, Co. I: Hans O. Hanson.

Fifteenth Infantry, Co. B: Ole P. Olsen, Sergeant; Peter O. Larson, *Co. E*; Simon Anderson, (*d*), Thorger Erickson, Peter Johnson, (c), Ole Kjostilson; *Co. G*, Charles Black, Tositere Larsen, Erick Olsen, Johannes Simensen.

Seventeenth Infantry, Co. B: Andrew Janson; *Co. I:* Amos H. Hanse, (c).

Twenty-Fifth, Co, F: Even T. Songsted; *Co. K*, Even T. Songsted; Fifth Corporal; James Everson, Simon C. Rerstad, Corporal; (*a*), Erick Anderson, (*c*), Ole Peterson, (*c*).

Fiftieth Infantry, Co. B: Torgee Jansen, Peter C. Hoonreon, Ole A. Knudson, Peter Matinson, John S. Rogers, Christopher Trubon.

Fifty Third Infantry, Co. C: Andres Anderson, Christian Everson.

TOWN OF COON.

Thirty-Fourth Infantry, Co A: Peter Olsen, George Stregle.

Fifty-Third Infantry, Co. B: John Matteson.

TOWN OF CLINTON.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. I: Alexander Hays, (*c*).

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: John S. Dickson, Corporal; Harvey D. Lindley, Daniel Mossholder.

Twentieth Infantry, Co. F: Isaac M. Adams, James Waggoner.

Twenty-Fifth Infantry, Co. A: David C. Yakey, 2d Sergeant; John W. Appleman, Mitchell Beck, George W. Brown, Henry Humphrey, James Mains, Jonathan Adams, (*c*) Menasiah McClurg, (*c*), George J. Pierce, (*c*), James F. Rhoe, (*c*); *Co. K:* Peter Hanson, 5th Corporal; John J. Bergh, Iver Peterson, Lewis M. Hanson, Sergeant, (*c*); Ole S. Johnson, Ole P. Karterna, Simon Erickson, (*c*), James Everson, (*c*), Ole J. Johnson, (*c*).

Thirty-Seventh Infantry, Co. F: Lorenzo T. Adams, Valentine E. Appleman, Oscar Burdick,

(*a*), Charles R. Forsyth, (*a*), Elias Stocks, Thomas Chambers, (*c*), Cortez B. Taylor.

Thirteenth Battery: William Sheets.

TOWN OF FOREST.

Twelfth Infantry Co. I: Edgar Eno, Corporal; James Adams, James Jeffries.

Fifteenth Infantry, Co. E: George Pepper.

Twenty-Third Infantry, Co. K: James Burnham, (*c*).

Twenty-Fifth Infantry, Co. A: Samuel Darnell, Corporal; Arthur Gill, (*c*).

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. E: James C. Gorden, Corporal; Wm. H. Hart.

Forty-Third Infantry, Co. F: Rufus S. Sherman, 1st Corporal; George Durkee, 5th Corporal; George W. Hawkins; *Co. K:* John S. Malosh.

First Cavalry, Co. F: James Combest, (*c*), Jesse Irwin.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN.

Second Infantry, Co. G: John Vantassell.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Earl M. Rogers, 1st Lieutenant; Edward L. Briggs, William Clanter, Sergeant; George W. Thompson, (*c*).

Seventh Infantry, Co B: John Christopher.

Eighth Infantry, Co F: Richard Perkinson.

Tenth Infantry, Co. H: Frederick Sallander.

Tenth Infantry, Co. E: Abner B. Allen, Silas W. Allen, Albert Bliss.

Fifteenth Infantry, Co. H: Ole T. Trestby, Josiah Adams.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Newton M. Layne, Capt., Samuel Swan (*c*), Gould Hickok, Serg't, Henry W. Swain, Allen L. Swain, John J. Swain. *Co. D*, Charles French, Corp'l, Wm. H. French, Ferdinand Getter, Sr., Ferdinand Getter, Jr., Ezra Hanckabout, George J. Hornby, (*c*), Joseph Hornby, (*d*), Francis M. Littleton, Hugh Littleton, George P. Melvin (*c*), Peter Slatter, John C. Williams, Corp'l; Wm. Wright (*c*).

Nineteenth Infantry, Co. C: Wm. Davis, Corp'l; John Myer, David A. Bundy, John A. Deaver, Theodore Garrell, Henry Gosling, George Johnson, Eli Mason, John Riley Thomas Savage (*c*), John C. Wilkinson, George W. Baker.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: John Williams 2d Lieut.; Nelson D. Hale, 5th Serg't; Russell S. Bunday, 7th Corp'l; Wm. Chambers, James Mason, Corp'l (*c*); Joseph Wood, (*c*). *Co. F.*, Caleb C. Lane.

Thirty-sixth Infantry, Co. H: Mathias Mettick.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. I: George B. Cade, David Dowhower, Seth Hart, Josiah W. Lamb, Corp'l; James O. McCullock, Pelatiah J. Richards, Martin V. B. Richards, Serg't; Felix K. Van Wagoner, John Wanek, Wm. Young, (*c*).

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: Jacob Gianera.

Eighth Battery: Ole Castleson.

TOWN OF GENOA.

Eighth Infantry, Co. I: Alex P. Shaw, (*c*), Casper Fopper.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Harrison Sayre.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. F: Thomas H. Ashbury, George W. Bartholomew, (*c*).

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: Joseph A. Heck, Florentine Heck, Samuel Kennedy, James Sandlin.

TOWN OF GREENWOOD.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Charles Bohn, Alex Graham, Aldridge W. Rogers, Dilman Saunders, Corp'l.

Eighth Infantry, Co. I: Rudolph Martin, John Sullivan, Joseph Watson, (*c*).

Tenth Infantry, Co. H: Robert M. Bailey.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: John S. Shieve, Hezekiah Shieve.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. B: Samuel Cammack, Francis M. Cammack, Clement J. Cherington.

Forty-fifth Infantry, Co. K: Leonard G. McCauley (*c*), Edwin M. Winslow.

Forty-ninth Infantry, Co. A: James Bundy, Edson Daly, Andrew Johnson, Byer Knudtson.

Tenth Battery: Hezekiah Wilds.

First Heavy Artillery, Co. H: Jacob Richards.

TOWN OF HAMBURG.

Eighth Infantry, Co. I: James Mellor, (*b*) *Co. F.* Samuel Fox (*c*).

Ninth Infantry, Vet. Co. C: Andreas Moenick.

Fifteenth Infantry, Co. E: Laurence Anderson (*b*), John Hoff, Lars Ingebirgtson, (*c*), Nels Nelson, Bore Peterson (*c*), John H. Stokke.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. K: John Peterson, Peter Handson (*a*), Peter A. Lendall (*c*), Ole A. Nelson (*c*).

Thirty-fourth Infantry, Co. A: Wm. Bamberg, Ole Everson, Hans Olsen, George Stregle.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: Andrew Salendar.

Forty-fifth Infantry, Co. H: Mathias Bagstad, Corp'l; John I. Huff, Simon Lunlokken, John C. Moilin *Co. K*, Hans Anderson, Christian E. Sveen.

TOWN OF HARMONY.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: G .L. Allen, Walker I. Barcus, Abel A. Johnson, Joseph Johnson, (*a*), Alfred Thompson, William Stevenson.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. A: Elisha Warner.

Seventeenth Infantry, Co. H: Daniel W. Horton.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Robert L. McMichael, Captain, John M. Heron, William Dowine, (*b*), James Garbee, Byron W. Johnston, (*c*), Edward Rogers, George M. Rogers.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: Alfred Adams, 2d Corporal; Vespasian W. Whitney, Milton R. Wood, Isaac L. Smith, Corporal; Elisha H. Warner, Christopher Baker, (*c*), Nicholas Sharp, (*c*), Sampson A. Vance, (*c*).

Fortieth Infantry, Co. C: A. J. Bingham.

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. B: Augustus Fetzlaff. *Co. I*, Harlan P. Procter.

First Battery: Monroe Crawford, Hiram Buswell, Elijah Caulkins, Peter Carson, Calvin C. Hagerman, Levi Noble, Roland Reid, Jabez Y. Spaulding.

First Heavy Artillery, Co. H: Walker T. Barcus.

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Sixth Infantry, Musicians: Wenzel G. Hanzlik, Levi W. Tonge. *Co. I*, Amos Johnson, 2d Lieut; T. W. Allen, Nathan Burchill, Sylvester Brill, William Church, George W. Douglas, (*a*), George W. Daniels, (*a*), Henry Didiot, Bradly Emons, Rudolph Fine, (*a*), Abijah Fox, (*c*), William Fox, (*b*), Ichabod B. Hill, Sergt; Charles Lind, Thomas W. McClure, (*c*), Hugh F. McClure, William A. Mattison, Levi Pearson, Daniel A. Pierce, Gotfried Shriver, Hiram Sanders, Corp'l; Abraham Searles, Levi N. Tongue, 1st Sergt; Levi L. Tongue, Sergt; George W. Thurber, Reuben Thompson, Corp'l. (*c*); Chester A. Wyman, Froland Willey, Corp'l; John Willey, Henry Wheeler.

Seventh Infantry, Co. A: George M. Burkel.

Eighth Infantry Co. I: Henry Grilley.

Twelfth Infantry Co. E: Benjamin Kauffman.

Twenty-first Infantry, Co. D: Norris Grilley.

Twenty-fifth Infantry Co. F: Benjamin Huffman.

Forty-seventh Infantry, Co. C: Chester A. Wayman, Sergt; Charles W. Bailey, Christian Bauer, Christian Engles, Ephriam D. Greeley, Andrew J. Greeley, Pinckney Hayden, Jacob M. Heacock, Samuel W. Hoyt, Charles Lindrum, Charles Lind, William A. Matteson, Corp'l; Alonzo Mitchel, Thomas J. Shear, Jonathan W. Shear, Daniel W. Shear, George W. Shaler, Charles H. Skillings, Anthony Winter.

Forty-ninth Infantry, Co. A: Daniel D. Jarvis, John C. McClure.

First Cavalry, Co. F: Darius Reynolds.

Tenth Battery: Jacob Dodge.

TOWN OF JEFFERSON.

Second Infantry, Co. A: Marshall L. Kinney. *Co. E*, William Kelock.

Third Infantry, Co. *A:* Lockwood George.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Alexander Lowrie, Capt.

Eighth Infantry, Co. F: James Berry, 2d Lieut; Henry W. Allen, Seymour M. Cummings, (*c*), George M. Drum, (*c*), Jeremiah L. Joseph, John P. Joseph, (*c*), John L. Smith, (*c*).

Twelfth Infantry, Co. *A:* John W. Pulver.

Thirteenth Infantry, Co. I: Erick Asbemson.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Allen A. Burnett, 2d Lieut; Henry Johnson, Archibald J. Morrison, Elijah S. Frazier, Burdett Fletcher, (*c*), Walter W. Odell, (*c*), Norris W. Saxton, (*a*). *Co. D*, George N. Esler. Joseph G. Hunter, (*d*), William Hunter, (*c*), Isaac H. Odell, Jonathan Townsend, Waldron Townsend.

Twentieth Infantry, Co. A: Austin Fletcher.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: Allen Francis, Isaac W. C. Burcham, George Pulver, William S. Waters, James Berry, Capt; Henry Waters, Sergt; Amasa B. Saxton, Corp'l; William R. Reese, John W. Pulver, John Graham, (*c*), Franklin Ranger, (*c*), Marion F. Fleck, William Powell, (*a*), Peter Rantz, Morris W. Saxton, (*c*).

Thirty-eighth Infantry, Co. F: William F. Riley.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. I: Augustus Wier.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: John N. Pulver.

Fiftieth Infantry, Co. B: Charles C. Haskell, Albert Johnson, David S. Kyes, Daniel M. Moore,Robert J. Moore, Andrew Molley, Daniel W. Seals, William Shult, Benjamin F. Schriver. *Co. K*, Goelk Olesen.

First Heavy Artillery, Co. L: H. N. M. Rayner.

TOWN OF KICKAPOO.

Fifth Infantry, Co. H: Benjamin Lawton, Serg; George W. Lawton. *Co. A*, Henry T. Lawton.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Michael Sallenter.

Eighth Infantry, Co. F: Philander S. Groesbeck, Louis Groesbeck, Stewart Groesbeck.

Tenth Infantry, Co. H: John Boyl.

Eleventh Infantry, Co. A: Edwin Medlacott.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. I: Irwin Gribble, 2d Lieut; Joshua Hutchinson, Sergt; Ransom Kellogg, Corp'l; Rudolph Foreman, Corp'l; Wallace B. Pugh, Corp'l; Emery L. Clark, Corp'l; Charles A. Toptine, (*c*), Eugene Baldwin, (*a*), Jacob Benn, Francis B. Clark, Henry H. Dupu, (*b*), Lumen S. Kellogg, Lewis D. Kellogg, Peter Nuby, Ephriam Sandford, Daniel Sandford, (*c*), John W. Sutherland, James C. Toptine, (*c*).

Sixteenth Infantry, Co. B: Francis Dupu, (*c*).

Seventeenth Infantry, Co. I: John W. Taylor, William Hutchinson, Corp'rl; Abram Y. Banta, Robert L. Banta, Reuben G. Drake, Edward P. Dailey, Lewis F. Day, Joseph L. Dunlap, David Haggerty, Eli Hooks, Nelson Kendall, Doctor F. Kumrine, Carl A. Shermer, Robert W. Tenney and Andrew T. Vance.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: William N. Carter, Sr., 1st Lieut; William N. Carter, Jr., 2d Lieut; Roswell F. Corey, Corp'l., John James, John C. Mitcalf, Travis Day, (*c*)., Martin V. Day, William P. Starbuck, (*c*)., *Co. D.*, Nathan Hale, 2d Corp'l; William Miller, Andrew Perkinson, Corp'l; Ambrose Osborn.

Twenty-Fifth Infantry, Co. A: Eli Osborn, Ira H. Sanford, John W. Church, (*b*), Jason Baldwin, (*c*), Abraham Benn, (*c*).

Thirty-Third Infantry, Co. F: James B. Connolly, (*c*).

Thirty-Fifth Infantry, Co. C: David M. Pugh, (*c*).

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. B: Eugene C. Gill. *Co. I:* David G. Bliss, 1st Lieut; John Clancy, William H. Lowny, Peter Vanalstine.

Forty-Third Infantry, Co. C: Henry Benn, Jonathan Kyser, Thomas McQueen, (*c*), William J. Neely, George W. Wilder.

Forty-Fifth Infantry, Co. H: Lewis Hibbard, Marien Osborn.

Fiftieth Infantry, Co. B: Joseph Harris.

TOWN OF LIBERTY.

Second Infantry, Co. E: Ripley J. Richards.

Twelfth Infantry Co. I: George W. Wise.

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. I: Samuel Palmer, Henry M. Rusk, Allen Rusk, Corp'l.; Cyrus J. Smith, Alfred Stedman, Robert Tate, George W. Wise.

Forty-Third Infantry, Co. F: Robert McKee.

TOWN OF STARK.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. I: J. Emry Payn, Serg't., Moses Powell, Corp'l.; James W. Dean, James Moore, Andrew J. Tompkins, (*c*).

Twenty-Fifth Infantry, Co. A: Henry W. Hadley, Chauncey Lawton, J. D. Orrison, James Miller, Serg't.; (*c*), Justin Smith, Corp'l.; (*c*), John Garrett, (*c*), Moses Hadley, (*c*), Peter S. Moore, (*c*), Findley Smith, (*c*), Nathaniel H. Smith, (*c*).

Thirty-Seventh Infantry, Co. I: William A. Lease, (*a*), John J. Lease.

Forty-Second Infantry, Co. B: Merritt W. Dean, (*c*), Orsumus Farnham, Corp'l.

Forty-Third Infantry, Co. K: Martin Corsaw, 2d Serg't.; Gilmond Eno, 5th Serg't.; Samuel W. Grey, George T. Thomas.

Forty-Fifth Infantry, Co H: George W. Lawton, 1st Serg't.; Francis G. Lawton.

TOWN OF STERLING.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: William M. Collins(*b*) John C. Campbell, John W. Elliott, Christian Hopp, (*a*) John D. Oliver, Henry W. Phillips, Clark Smith (*b*) Thomas H. White (*b*).

Fourteenth Infantry, Co. H: Peter Erickson, (*c*).

Fifteenth Infantay, Co. B: Loren L. Hange, Ludwig L. H. Hange.

Seventeenth Infantry, Co. B: Peter Mellam. *Co. I.* James McClurg, (*c.*)

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Ransom J. Chase, 2d Lieut.; Danford J. Spear, Corp.; Legrand Hickock, Julius C. Morley, (*c*). David Cunlkins, Isaac C. Newell, George W. Taylor, (*c*). Orrin Tooker, (*c*). *Co. D.* Charles Ames, (*c*) William H. White, Sergeant.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A. Henry Chandler.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. B. Wright S. Crane, Perry Curtiss, George P. Griffin, Samuel Hasbrook, Samuel W. Pitts, Edward S. Riggs, William Tewall, (*c*) Alvin Wakefield, Elijah Wakefield, Lafayette Wakefield, (*c*). Orson Whitney, John Whitney, James Whitney. Sergeant. *Co. I.* Samuel Davis, John W. Davis, Benjamin S. King, Wilson Mills, James A. Tewall, John S. Tewall, Benjamin I. Witcraft.

TOWN OF UNION.

Eleventh Infantry, Co. D. Francis W. Morrison, James Pannell, Joshua Vanduson, Henry Widner, Mathias Widner, Martin I. Widner(*c*).

Seventeenth Infantry Co. F. Herman Shoepp.

Forty-second Infantry Co. E. William R. Bundy, Thomas, H. Daniel.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. K. Archibald Calloway.

TOWN OF VIROQUA.

Third Infantry, Co. A. Charles Verley.

Sixth Infantry, Co. C. James Burrell, Charles A. Conklin (*b*) Charles Emett, O. P. Fritnell, Corporal; John F. Harding, (*b*) William C. Hockabout Sergeant; John W. Longmin (*c*) William C. Minshall, James E. Newell, Hiram M. Richardson, William L. Riley, Edwin E. Sears, George W. Sutton (*a*) John L. Somerby, James Wallace, Valentine Warner.

Eighth Infautry, Co. F. Benjamin F. Allison, Sergeant; Samuel McColaugh, Corporal (*c*), John W. Allison, Amos W. Bickfield, William Burns, Benjamin F. Groves, William C. Groves, Isaac N. Groves, Eli M. Groves (*c*) Josiah S. Groves, Alfred Lore, Cornelius A. Marston (*a*) George S. Nichols, Wilson Pitcher, John W. Shell, Corporal, (*a*); Michael Sallander, William Sallander (*c*)

Ninth Infantry, Co. H. Bernard Hartfield, Sergt. Major.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. A: Robert M. Leighty, *Co. I,* Archibald Lee, Jerome S. Tinker 2nd Lieutenant; Thomas F. Bryant, John W. Carton, Daniel Cox, George Everett, Henry H. Hull, Henry G. Honey, Daniel Jennings, Jared Jennings, Ore Lind (*a*), John Munyon (*c*), Seth McClurg, John A. Moore, George C. Richards (*c*), Benjamin F. Rider, Thomas Skinner, Mil-

ton Sample (*a*), Samuel Smith, James Silbough (*a*), William L. Tate, Joel Winters, Samuel D. Yakey (*c*).

Fourteenth Infantry, Co. *D:* Authur P. Allen, Oscar P. Allen (*c*), James Foster, Milton Owen, Joseph Snodgrass.

Fifteenth Infantry, *Co. E:* Peter Erickson (*d*), Knud Johnson, Treo Romsads (*c*), John Christenson, Sergeant (*c*).

Sixteenth Infantry Co. *E:* Lewis Connelly.

Seventeenth Infantry, *Co. I:* Charles W. Pitcher, 2d Lieutenant; Richard Anderson, Arthur B. Haskell.

Eighteenth Infantry, *Co. C:* Calvin Morley, 1st Sergeant; Thomas J. Decker, Sergeant; William Cox, sergeant; Samuel McMichael, corporal; Joseph Buckley, corporal; Hiram Moody, Bazzle Munyon, Noah Ganatt (*c*), Thomas Fretwell (*d*), Robert E. Graham, C. B. Guist, John Parnell, Laughlin Quime, Daniel Rantz, Benjamin F. Rantz, Charles Raymer, John J. Ross, Augustus Singer (*c*), Phillip Singer, Nathaniel Sheppard, (*c*), William H. Thompson (*c*), Benjamin F. Wells. *Co. D*, Byron Carey. *Co. K*, George Williams (*c*).

Nineteenth Infantry, *Co. C:* Henry B. Nichols, captain.

Twentieth Infantry, *Co. F:* Gabriel Olson.

Twenty-first Infantry, *Co. D:* John E. Green.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, *Co. A:* Jeremiah M. Rusk, Lieut. Col., William A. Gott, Surgeon, David C. Hope, Lieut. and Reg. Qr. Master, John R. Casson, Cap't., Alex. Morrison, 4th Corp'l., Britton L. Gillett, Harmon Jennings, George T. Pidcock, Amos A. Richardson, John R. Rundle, Cyrus M. Butt, Cap't., William F. Cummings, John De Witt, James W. Gillman, William F. Hanchett, James H. Lane, Thomas H. Reed, Martin V. B. Richards, John E. Davis, David C. Hope, Edward Minshall, Isaiah Ferrell, (*c*), Serg't., William Jonas, Corp'l, (*c*), Charles Barston, (*c*), Amon Biddison, (*c*), George W. Cummings, (*c*), James A. Douglass, (*c*), Charles W. Delap, (*c*), William H. Foreaker, (*c*), Purley B. Grubb, (*a*), George W. Hope, (*c*), William B. H. Hunter, (*c*), John Marshall, (*c*), William Pidcock, (*c*), William C. Reed, (*c*), Hiram Steadman, (*c*), Silas H. Stricker, (*c*), Freeman Sutten, (*c*), Philip Silbough, (*c*), Ira Wisel, (*c*).

Twenty-Seventh Infantry. *Co. K:* Charles H. Raymer, 1st Lieut.

Thirty-Fifth Infantry, *Co. C:* William Boxley, Lemuel Lieurance, Corp'l., Frederick Lieurance, Serg't; Nathaniel Morrison, David Lieurance, Richard Pidcock, Augustus Smith, Serg't., Samuel Stroud, (*c*). *Co. D.*, Joseph C. Harrison, Corp'l; Edward D. Brigham, Orrin Dickson, Jasper W. Grubb. *Co. E*, Daniel J. Gibson, (*c*), Orrille Dickson, (*c*). *Co. G*, A. F. Smith, 1st. Lieu't., Eren Dalton, John W. Saubpert, Corp'l.. George Martin, David E. Lawton, Thaddeus Conklin, Joseph Hadley, Corp'l., Joseph Pannell, Burr W. Serley, Amos F. Schilling, Elisha Smith, Henry Salander, John H. Small, James Small, Edward Everett.

Thirty-Seventh Infantry, *Co. F:* William P. Hayter.

Forty-Second Infantry. *Co. I:* Marshall C. Nichols, Capt., Samuel V. Allison, Serg't., William H. Burlen, Corp'l., Joseph D. Brothers, Corp'l., Henry H. Blodgett, Corp'l., Thomas P. Dewitt, Joshua Lieurance, Albert J. Rusk, Willard W. Rusk, Oscar J. Stillwell, John Welch.

Forty-Eighth Infantry: M. Butt, Maj.

Fiftieth Infantry *Co. B:* Clayton E. Rogers, Captain; James E. Newell 1st Lieut., George H. Burlin, John L. Groves, James W. Gillman, William Getter, Alexander Gorsline, Francis M. Haskell, Simeon A. Hicok, James Kontner, Hans Jesperson, James H. Johnson, John Kirkpatrick, Selucas C. Miller, David Miller, John Myers, Leonard Morley, John Slater, Abraham Smith, Harrison Smith, William P. Shannon, Ezra W. Shrive, Ebenezer S. Stretsberry, Ole T. Severson, J. H. Swain, Francis Southwick, James J. Taylor, Elijah Tilton, Edward S. Tuttle, Chancy Vanduson, Nelson W. Winters, William B. Williams.

Fifty-Second Infantry, *Co. C*; Samuel Penell, Peter Shult.

First Cavalry, Co. E: Jacob M. Snyder.

Third Cavalry Co. A: James F. Palmer, Sergeant (*e*), Charles Marston, Davis Onstat.

Fourth Cavalry, Co. I: Alexander B. Smith.

TOWN OF WEBSTER.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: James Mc McLane.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C Samuel Fish, (*c*).

Thirty-Fifth Infantry, Co. D: Harry M. Allen, Jacob Jones.

Forty-Second Infantry, Co I: Armer L. Wood, John Wood.

Company F: Joseph M. Ames, Oliver Brown, William Bryson (*c*).

Forty-Third Infantry Co. F: Lewis Graham, Ezekiel Jackson, Thomas M. McCollough, Henry E. Pettet.

Forty-fifth Infantry, Co. H: Levador Green, David Hancock.

TOWN OF WHEATLAND.

Fifth Infantry, Co. K: Charles S. Foust.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Francis A. Waller, 1st Lieut.; L. S. Benedick (*a*), Albert E. Fosdick, Henry A. Fosdick (*c*), William Lawrence, Corporal (*a*); Edward Lind, George A. McDill, Corporal; Andrew Milles, 1st Sergt. (*a*); Charles A. Page, Richard H. Phillips (*c*), Gabriel A. Ruby, Daniel Remington, Robert N. Smith, Drum Major; William Sears (*c*), Francis A. Walker, 1st Lieut.; Samuel G. Walker, Corporal; Richard A. Warham, Corporal; Richard A. Warren, Corporal; John W. White.

Eighth Infantry, Co. F: Francis Shumway(*c*).

Twelfth Infantry, Co. A: William H. Ashberry, Franklin Buchannan, William Pulham, Henry T. Roberts.

Seventeenth Infantry: F. James Ethelbert, Com. Sergt. *Co. I:* Ethelbert F. James.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: Peters S. Campbell, Corporal; Parley Whitney. *Co. K;* Melvin Brayman.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co. A: Warren G. Davis, 1st Lieut.; James H. Rogers, 3d Sergt.; James L. Gordan, 4th Sergt.; Thomas E. Engle, 1st Corpl.; Robert L. Ferguson, 5th Corp'l; Edwin K. Loring, 8th Corp'l; Peter Jacobus, Charles H. Tilden, William F. O. Coard (*c*), Phillip Geiser (*c*), George F. Green (*c*), Harvey Sewell (*c*), Gillman Tenny (*c*).

Twenty-seventh Infantry, Co. I: George W. Furman.

Twenty-first Infantry, Co. A: Thomas Delacy.

Forty-second Infantry, Co. B: Zeans T. Clark, Henry P. Kendall, Orrin D. Wilson.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: Frederick Stode, James Voisey.

Forty-fifth Infantry, Co. K: Charles A. Tenny, 4th Sergt.

Fiftieth Infantry, Co. B: Rezin Z. Ball, Joseph F. Huntington, Eleazer G. Miller, Silas E. Phillips, George S. Sperry, Albert A. Sumner, Seymour G. Waite; *Co. K:* Cary H. Joslyn, Milo M. Whitney.

TOWN OF WHITESTOWN.

Fifth Infantry, Co. H: Christopher Ostrandeo, Corp'l.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: Clayton E. Rogers, 1st Lieut.; George W. Atwood (*a*), Elias C. Burdick, William L. Bodden, Franklin Elsworth (*a*), Edward Fearn, Sergt.; Chauncey A. Grune, 1st Sergt.; Lewis Hart, Daniel W. Nutting, Joseph Words, Isaiah Williams, Corp'l.

Eighteenth Infantry, Co. C: William Masterton, Patrick Mooney, James McClelland (*c*), John Stokes, (*c*), Peter Sloggny, Capt. *Co. D:* Adolphus King, Henry J. Phelps, Joshua W. Sheldon. *Co K:* Nathan Culver.

Twenty-first Infantry, Co. A: Hiram Bugbee.

Twenty-fifth Infantry, Co A: Joseph Heckley, Samuel Wilkinson, Merriatt Rowe, Frederick S. Rowe.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. K: Charles E. Critchitt, 2d Corp'l; George W. Delap, Corp'l; Robert W. Delap, William F. Finnell.

Forty-ninth Infantry, Co. A: Abraham Bugbee.

First Cavalry, Co. F: Lewis Clute, Francis Chalvin (*c*), Hiram J. Cronde, Charles W. Cute (*c*), Thomas Cox.

Third Cavalry, Co. A: William Fennell.

Fourth Cavalry, Co. I: Joseph A. Walker, Milan Graham, Alonzo D. Sabine.

VERNON COUNTY AT LARGE.

Fifth Infantry, Co. H: James M. Dean; *Co A:* Henry Osgood.

Sixth Infantry, Co. I: William S. Cushing, James C. Moody, John G. Moody.

Seventh Infantry, Co. G: George Allen, Harrison C. Joseph, Thomas E. Joseph.

Eighth Infantry, Co. I: John Olson (*c*).

Tenth Infantry, Co. H: Albert Moses.

Twelfth Infantry, Co. C: Charles Fish (*c*).

Thirteenth Infantry, Co I: Louis Erickson.

Fifteenth Infantry, Co. A: Tobias Ingbretser, Niets P. Olsen, Mecal Olsen, Amuud Olsen (*c*); *Co. D:* Jacob Nelson; *Co. F:* Hans H. Leium.

Ninteenth Infantry, Co. C: Judson Phelps, Frederick Guist, Chantey Hamar.

Twentieth Infantry, Co A: Henry C. Thompson.

Forty-third Infantry, Co. F: John F. Hofins, d Corp'l.

IN MEMORIAM.

When Pericles was called upon to deliver the oration over those who had fallen in the first campaign of the Peloponnesian war, he began by extolling Athens; and, having expatiated upon her glories, her institutions and her sciences, he concluded by exclaiming: "For such a republic, for such a Nation, the people whom we this day mourn fell and died." It is "for such a republic—for such a Nation" as the United States of America, that the people of the North, by thousands, "fell and died" during the war for the Union; and, to those thousands, Vernon county contributed her share.

Vernon county's war record is of such a character that her people may ever refer to it with pride and satisfaction. One of the early counties in the State, as we have seen, to respond with volunteers in the hour of gravest peril, she never faltered during the entire struggle, weary and disheartening as it oft times was. Her old men were not wanting in counsel, nor her young men or middle-aged in true martial spirit. With a firm, unswerving faith in the righteousness of the Union cause, her citizens, with scarce a distinction in age or sex, were imbued with a determination to conquer or die rather than survive defeat. It was this kind of patriotism that bore the Union cause through defeat as well as victory, whenever the oft-repeated news was brought home of depleted and scattered ranks. Vernon county valor is attested upon every street of her hospitable villages; upon her broad sections of fertile land; and last, but not least, within the silent enclosures of her dead. It is here that, with each recurring anniversary, the graves of her heroes are moistened with the tears of sorrow, as loving fingers bedeck them with beautiful flowers.

Although there are in the preceding pages some facts which may remind the citizens of Vernon county of the deeds of those who fought the good fight until the end, yet without these records, those days of peril, of suffering, and of victory at last, would not be forgotten by the present generation; they are too deeply engraved in the hearts of all. Each of the citizen-soldiers from this county who stood loyally by the country's standard through the war, has wrought his name in characters that live as monuments to the memories of men.

Many gallant sons of Vernon, who went out from home to battle for the Union, with only the benediction of a mothers' tears and prayers, came back to those mothers' arms with a glorious record. Many returned having left a limb in the swamps of Chickahominy; on the banks of the Rapidan; at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg Vicksburg, or in the Wilderness. Many still bear the marks of that strife which raged at Stone River, Iuka, Chickamauga, or on the heights of Lookout Mountain, whence they thundered down the defiance of the skies; or of that strife which was waged before Atlanta, Savannah and in the Carolinas.

But there were many who came not back. They fell by the wayside, in the prison, on the

battlefield, or in the hospital. Their memory, however, is held in the most sacred keeping. Some sleep beside their ancestors in the village churchyard, where the violets on their graves speak not alone of womanly sweetness, but in tender accents of the devotion of those beneath the mounds of earth. All, all, whether buried in the distant South or at home, are remembered as they slumber on in a peaceful, glorified rest.

"Winds of Summer, Oh whisper low,
Over the graves where the violets grow.
Blossoming flowers and songs of bees,
Sweet ferns tossed in the summer's breeze,
Floating shadows and golden lights,
Dewy mornings and radiant nights,
All the bright and beautiful things
That gracious and bountiful summer brings,
Fairest and sweetest that earth can bestow,
Brighten the graves where the violets grow."

Many of the brave soldiers who battled for the Union—many, very many — "have gone before;" and they now wait upon the threshold of Paradise for the coming of those loved ones left behind, when they, too, shall have exchanged the feeble pulses of a transitory exissence for the ceaseless throbbing of eternal life. Faithful and fearless, on the march, in the strife, at victory or defeat, they at last laid down at the mysterious frontier, leaving the exalted hope behind that, though the world was lost forever, there would be unfurled another realm of unimaginable glory, where they, and all whom they loved on earth, might realize the promise which the great Ruler of the universe has made to the just.

PENSIONERS IN VERNON COUNTY.

No. of certificate.	Name of Pensioner.	Post-office address.	Cause for which Pensioned.	Monthly rate.	Date of original allowance.
.....	Burns, Hannah	Avalanche	mother	$8 00	June, 1881
.....	Cummings, William T	do	varicose veins and ulcer left leg	6 00	
.....	Peavy, Selinda	do	widow 1812	8 00	Feb., 1879
.....	Soper, Darius	Bergen	w. l. arm and thigh	8 00	
.....	Wakey, David C	Bloomingdale	ch. diarrhea & dis. abd. vis	6 00	Feb., 1882
10,252	McDaniels, Samuel	do	loss l. leg	24 00	
.....	Smith, Alexander B	do	w. r. chest	4 00	May, 1881
.....	Headley, James C	do	w. l. ankle, l. hip	10 00	
.....	Maines, Eliza	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Welch, Mary	do	widow 1812		Sept., 1880
107,179	Lathrop, Chapaleon B	Burr	dis. heart	8 00	
.....	Stokke, Johannes H	Chaseburgh	wd. right thigh	2 00	Dec., 1882
.....	Oleson, Mathias	do	w. l. leg	2 00	June, 1882
.....	Chaney, Charles H	do	minor	10 00	
.....	Markle, Jacob	do	w. l. elbow & r. arm	8 00	July, 1881
.....	Shreve, Caleb	Debello	chr. bronchitis	8 00	Jan., 1881
.....	Shreve, John S	do	chr. diarrhea	4 00	June, 1880
.....	Hyne, Tammy	do	mother	8 00	
32,147	Palmer, Priscilla R	Dell	widow	8 00	
204,816	Barton, Anthony	De Soto	rheum	4 00	March, 1882
181,900	Rose, Wm. F	do	chr. rheum	8 00	Feb., 1881
.....	Pennel, Robert	do	chr. diarrhea	4 00	July, 1881
.....	Green, Phebe	do	mother	8 00	
.....	White, John W	do	w. nates	6 00	
.....	Coffin, Peleg	do	surv. 1812	8 00	
.....	Dains, Andrew	do		8 00	April, 1879
.....	Rogers, James H	do	injury to abdomen	3 00	Oct., 1882
.....	Page, Charles F	do	w. l. foot	6 00	
.....	Davenport, Nelson	do	w. l. groin	6 00	
.....	Partridge, Susan L	do	mother	8 00	
.....	Cushing, Wm. S	do	w. l. leg & r. thigh	6 00	
133,955	Dixon, James C	do	frac. skull	6 00	
.....	Landin, James	Genoa	minor of	10 00	
.....	Salsberry, Robert S	Gocle	loss r. arm	24 00	
.....	Eaelus, Henry W	do	loss sight l. eye	4 00	
.....	Knowles, Thomas	Hillsborough	chr. diarrhea	8 00	July, 1880
.....	Dodge, Darius	do	do	6 00	
.....	Tongue, Levi	do	epilepsy	12 00	
.....	Sullivan, James P	do	w. l. shoulder, inj. to r. hand	8 00	
.....	Schriber, Gottfred	do	wd. l. hip	6 00	
.....	Calkely, Catherine	do	widow 1812	8 00	July, 1879
.....	Crary, Milton E	do	dis. chest	6 00	Jan., 1881
.....	Salts, William F	do	par. deafness & dis. of eyes	4 00	

PENSIONERS IN VERNON COUNTY.—*Continued.*

No. of certificate.	Name of pensioner.	Post-office address.	Cause for which pensioned.	Monthly rate.	Date of original allowance.
.....	Searles, Abraham	do	loss middle finger r. hand	4 00	April, 1878
.....	Bailey, Jane	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Kreps, Margaret	do	do	16 00	Jan., 1881
.....	Webster, Lewis H. E	do	chr. diarrhea	4 00	
.....	Sweete, Thomas	do	wd. left hip	6 00	
.....	Tracy, Charles H	do	wd. r. shoulder	1 00	Sept., 1880
.....	Welch, John S	do	wd. r. thigh	6 00	
.....	Rowley, Robert	do	loss l. leg	18 00	
.....	Wattison, William A	do	deafness both ears	6 00	Oct., 1880
.....	Greeley, Ephraim D	do	chr. diar. & res. inj. to abd	4 00	Aug., 1882
.....	Burchill, Nathan	do	wd. both hands	6 00	
.....	Bohn, Herman	do	inj. to r. index finger, felon	2 00	March, 1881
.....	Ferguson, Robert	do	chr. diarrhea	8 00	July, 1880
.....	Lind, Charles	do	wd. of face, loss l. eye, inj. to r. eye	12 00	
.....	Myers, Harvey F	do	incise wd. of face	4 00	
.....	Staley Rachel	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Cole, Herman	do	l. side of chest	4 00	
.....	Newman, Sally	do	mother	8 00	
.....	Revels, Henry	do	wd. r. arm	2 00	
36,603	Strickler, Jonathan	do	injury to abdomen, &c	4 00	
.....	Bean, Dredsel H	La Farge	injury to abdomen	8 00	Aug., 1880
.....	Pelton, Ezra O	do	anchylosis l. knee joint, inj. to abd	19 00	
.....	Gray, Caroline M	Liberty Pole	widow	8 00	
.....	Slack, Harrison	do	wd. r. hand	15 00	
.....	Peterson, Christopher	do	chr. diarrhea, dis. of abd. vis	8 00	Dec., 1882
.....	Alexander, Emily	do	widow	8 00	
....	Sherman, David B	Mount Tabor	loss of great toe of l. foot	3 00	Nov., 1877
.....	Sherman, Moses L	do	wd. l. hand	7 00	
154,330	Lampman, Isaac	Newton	dis. of heart	18 00	June, 1878
.....	Stedman, Horace	Ontario	wd. of back	4 00	
.....	Culver, Nathan	do	chr. diarrhea	4 00	March, 1882
.....	Smith, Ruben S	do	dis. of eyes	6 00	Aug., 1882
.....	Walker, Perry	do	do	8 00	June, 1881
.....	Irwin, Jesse	do	paralysis l. arm	4 00	
.....	Quinn, Laughlin	do	w. l. leg	$ 6 00	July, 1878
.....	Walker, Samuel	do	dis. of eyes	12 00	
.....	Boldon, Samuel T	do	surv. 1812	8 00	
.....	Roberts, Isaac W	do	loss l. arm above elbow	24 00	
.....	Glenn, Lewis B	do	w. r. thigh	4 00	
.....	Gordon, James C	do	ch. diar, resul. dis. abd'l vis	4 00	Apr., 1882
.....	Lumley, David E	do	w. l. arm	8 00	
.....	Gudgen, Arza	do	dis. lungs, diarr., with reslt. dis. of abdominal viscera.	8 00	May, 1882
.....	Boldon, William L	do	inc'sd r. foot & dis. lungs	8 00	Oct., 1880
.....	MeVay, Allen	do	w. l. foot	2 00	
.....	Miller, Daniel	do	w. of head	2 00	July, 1881
.....	Hart, Lewis	do	w. of l. leg	6 00	
.....	Kelly, James	do	ch. Bright's disease	12 00	
.....	Lamb, Lydia A	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Delap, Thomas L	do	w. f. thigh & necrosis & resulting paralysis.	3 25	
.....	Thompson, Shora O	do	widow	8 00	
108,089	Greek, Wm. E	do	g. s. w. r. arm	18 00	
.....	Snyder, John W	Otttervale	w. l. arm	2 00	Jan., 1882
133,911	Strait, Wm	do	rheum	4 00	
.....	Roberts, Willis J	do	w. r. hand,	8 00	
.....	Lind, Elizabeth	Purdy	widow	8 00	
.....	Carter, Mary	Readstown	do	17 00	June. 1881
.....	Starner, Elizabeth	do	mother	8 00	May, 1880
.....	Salmon, Benjamin	do	ch. rheumatism	4 00	Feb., 1881
.....	Sutherland, Briggs	do	w. r. hand	5 00	
.....	Salmon, Cutler	do	w. r. thigh	6 00	Jan., 1881
.....	Anderson, Elizabeth	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Elmendorf, John F	do	surv. 1812	8 00	
.....	Lewis, Catherine	do	widow	8 00	
.....	Curley, George	do	dis. of eyes	6 00	Nov., 1879
.....	Poff, Charles M	do	w. l. hip	6 00	
.....	Powell, Sarah	do	mother	8 00	Sept., 1878
.....	Cooley, Prudia	Retreat	widow	8 00	
.....	Fisk, Lucinda	do	do	8 00	
.....	Gibbs, John S	do	dis. eyes	6 00	Oct., 1882
.....	Fourt, Charles S	do	w. l. leg	12 00	
.....	Adams, Jesse	do	w. neck, chest	6 00	
.....	Hurd, Jerusha A	do	mother	8 00	Apr., 1881
.....	Sutherland, George W	Rocktown	father	8 00	
.....	Bryant, Thomas F	do	inj. r. ankle	2 00	May, 1878
.....	Bennett, Van S	do	inj. l. ankle	10 00	Oct., 1880
.....	Bennett, Eliza	do	mother	20 00	

PENSIONEERS IN VERNON COUMTY.—*Continued.*

No. of certificate.	Name of Pensioner.	Post-office address.	Cause for which Pensioned.	Monthly rate.	Date of original allowance
.....	Rolf, Albert H.	do	w. l. foot & l. thigh	4 00	June, 1881.
151,459	McDonald, David.	Springville	wd. head	6 00	Mar., 1878.
.....	Romsas, Karen E	do	widow	8 00	.....
.....	Williams, George N.	do	wd. l. thigh.	4 00	July, 1882.
.....	Buchanan, Sarah.	do	widow 181	8 00	Nov., 1879.
.....	Slocum, Abraham.	do	dis. of heart	6 00	Sept., 1881.
.....	Graham, Lemach.	do	w. r. breast & r. arm	2 00	May, 1882.
.....	Groves, Isaac N.	do	injury to abdomen	2 00	Sept., 1881.
.....	Driskill, Obadiah.	Star	dis. of abdominal viscera	4 00	Dec., 1881.
.....	Sinclair, John W.	do	w. l foot and hand	6 00	.....
.....	Parker, Robert.	do	chr. diar.	4 00	Aug., 1881.
.....	McHenry, Elizabeth.	do	mother	8 00	Apr., 1880.
.....	Drake, Janette.	Sugar Grove	do	8 00	Oct., 1880.
.....	Dupee, Sarah.	do	widow	8 00	.....
.....	Kober, Christopher	do	ch. diarrhea	18 00	.....
.....	Wyman, Chester A.	Tripville	wd. r. thigh	6 00	.....
185,102	Blanchard, Allen E.	Victory	rheum	6 00	Mar., 1881.
151,821	Blanchard, Job.	do	dis. kidneys	8 00	Mar., 1878.
.....	Snodgrass, Joseph.	Viroqua	injury to abdomen	4 00	Aug., 1881.
25,848	Critchet, Thomas.	do	loss r. leg	18 00	.....
.....	Owens, Milton.	do	dis. of eyes, total blindness	72 00	.....
.....	Olden, Edward.	do	lumbago,	4 00	Mar., 1881.
.....	Casson, John R.	do	wd. l. hand	8 00	.....
.....	Watson, Amy R.	do	mother	8 00	.....
.....	Russell, Andrew.	do	dis. of eyes	12 00	.....
.....	Toney, Squire.	do	do	4 00	July, 1881.
.....	Fish, Nancy.	do	widow	8 00	.....
.....	Waer, Robert.	do	loss pt. r. middle finger	2 00	.....
.....	Reed, Thomas.	do	inj. to abd. and digestive organs, fever & torpid liver.	12 00	Dec., 1880.
.....	Foster, James.	do	ch. diarr. result. dis. abd. vis.	6 00	May, 1880.
.....	Goman, Eugene.	do	w. r. ankle	4 00	.....
.....	Hodge, William A	Viroqua	w. of l. shoulder, inj. to abdomen	$10 00	Feb., 1880.
.....	Morley, Calvin.	do	injury to abdomen.	4 00	Dec., 1882.
.....	Mason, Eli	do	do	8 00	.....
.....	Beslin, Irwin.	do	w. of l. leg	12 00	.....
.....	Hunter, George D.	do	chr. diarrhea	4 00	Aug., 1881.
.....	Hofins, John T.	do	dis. of eyes and throat	6 00	Sept., 1882.
.....	Kahle, Earnest	do	asthma, dis. of heart	12 00	April, 1881.
.....	Allen, Henry W	do	w. l. breast	2 00	June, 1878.
.....	Aman, George	do	w. l. arm and hand	8 00	.....
.....	Latta, Josiah	do	ulcers r. leg	6 00	April, 1880.
.....	Hunter, Polly	do	mother	8 00	.....
.....	Nicks, John D.	do	dis. of lungs	4 00	Oct., 1880.
.....	Chase, Henry A.	do	w. r. thigh	2 00	.....
.....	Clark, Samuel W.	do	opethalmia, dis. of eyes, inj. to abd.	16 00	.....
.....	Stubbs, Thirza E	do	widow	8 00	.....
.....	Erving, Samuel R.	do	wd. l. thigh	2 00	.....
.....	Rogers, Earl M.	do	do	17 00	.....
.....	Rogers, Benjamin	do	w l. knee	2 00	Oct., 1880.
.....	Kastrue, Ole P.	Westby	injury to abdomen	10 00	April, 1878.
.....	Andrews, Simon.	do	w. r. breast	2 00	Dec., 1882.

50TH REGIMENT, WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS INFANTRY, CO. B.

The roll of Co. B, of the 50th regiment Wisconsin volunteers, on May 30, 1866, was made up largely of Vernon county men. It was as follows:

Company Officer—Second lieutenant, J. W. Allen, Brodhead, Green county.

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant—Siles E. Phillips, De Soto, Vernon county.

First Sergeant—L. Morley, Viroqua.

Sergeants—E. S. Tuttle, Glen Haven, Grant county; H. J. Phelps, Ontario; J. Harris, Newville; L. S. Daniels, Ontario.

Corporals—P. C. Hoverton, Soldiers' Grove, Crawford county; F. M. Haskell, Viroqua; C. C. Haskell, Ontario; J. S. Gibbs, De Soto; S. Turner, Newville; E. Tilton, Viroqua; E. G. Miller, De Soto.

Drummer—F. Southwick, Franklin.

Privates—George H. Burlin, Sparta, Monroe county; Henry Bacon, Pole Grove, Jackson county; R. Z. Ball, De Soto; L. Christianson,

Springville; Michael Eckhardt, De Soto; William Getter, Franklin; M. D. Holcomb, Ontario; Jonathan Hay, Viroqua; J. F. Huntington, De Soto; Torger Johnson, Coon Prairie; Albert Johnson, Rising Sun, Crawford county; Hans Jesperson, North Cape, Racine county; James Konlner, Viroqua; David D. Kyes, Ontario; Ole A. Knudson, Mt. Pisgah, Monroe county; James Bright, La Crosse, La Crosse county; R. J. Moore, La Crosse, La Crosse county; D. M. Moor, Ontario; J. R. Miller, De Soto; Ole H. Notwick, Coon Prairie; John Slaytor, Goole; H. Smith, Viroqua; William Shult, Viroqua; Jonathan H. Swain, Viroqua; E. S. Stretsbery, Ontario; Charles Schied, De Soto; William L. Tallman, PoleGrove, Jackson county; J .B. Tallman, Perry Walker, Ontario.

Commissioned Officers Resigned—Captain, C. E. Rogers, Jan. 4, 1866; 1st Lieutenant, J. E. Newell, Feb. 3, 1866.

Discharged—First Sergeant, C. C. Brown, May 3, 1865.

Privates—H. M. Bean, May 3, 1865; J. Cummins, May 3, 1865; S. A. Hicock, May 3, 1865; L. D. Prentice, May 3, 1865; O. L. Severson May 3, 1865; B. F. Schriever, May 3, 1865; T. E. Taylor, May 3, 1865; C. A, Vandusen, May 3, 1865; J. R. Lake, May 3, 1865; J. S. Rogers, May 27, 1865.

Sergeants—L. H. Walker, June 15, 1865.

Privates—W. B. Williams, June 15, 1865; John Knight, June 6, 1865; E. W. Threve, May 6, 1865; E. A. Webber, May 6, 1865; S. Wait, July 27, 1865; A. Smith, Oct, 21, 1865; C. A. Green, Nov. 27, 1865; David Miller, May 27, 1865; G. S. Sperry, May 27, 1865; J. S. Groves, Feb. 13, 1866; E. H. Ames, Feb. 22, 1866; P. Martinson, Feb. 22, 1866; A. A. Summer, Feb. 28, 1866; H. K. Miller, Feb. 28, 1866.

Died—H. F. Downing, May 10, 1865, Benton Barracks, Mo.; J O. Fox, June 9, 1865, Booneville, Mo.; P. Kyser, Aug. 2, 1865, St. Louis Mo.

Absent sick—J. P. Davenport, Calvin Boyer, Seth Edson, H. J. Smith.

VERNON COUNTY CAPTAINS AND FIELD OFFICERS.

Nine of the citizens of Vernon county were honored with commissions as captains during the war as follows: James Berry, C. M. Butt, W. N. Carter, John A. Carson, Newton M. Layne, Alexander Lowrie, William McMichael, C. E. Rogers and E. N. Rogers, the last mentioned having been breveted major.

Two Vernon county men received commissions as field officers: C. M. Butt, major, afterward promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and Jeremiah M. Rusk, major, also promoted to lieutenant-colonel; but subsequently brevetted colonel and brigadier-general.

Gen. Jeremiah M. Rusk was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, June 17, 1830; removed to Wisconsin and settled in Bad Ax (now Vernon) county in 1853; held several county offices; was a member of the Assembly in 1862; was commissioned major of the 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in July, 1862; was soon after promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy. Served with Gen. Sherman from the siege of Vicksburg until mustered out at the close of the war, and was breveted colonel and brigadier-general for bravery at the battle of Salkehatchie; was elected bank comptroller of Wisconsin for 1866 and 1867, and re-elected for 1868–9; represented the sixth congressional district in the 42d Congress, and the seventh district in the 43d and 44th Congress; was chairman of the committee on invalid pensions in the 43d Congress ; was a member of the congressional republican committee for several years; was a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago, in 1880; was appointed by President Garfield and confirmed by the Senate, as Minister to Paraguay and Uruguay, which appointment he declined; was also tendered by President Garfield the mission to Denmark and the position of chief of the bureau of engraving and printing, both of which he declined; was elected governor at the

annual election in 1881,as a republican, receiving 81,754 votes against 69,797 for N. D. Fratt, democrat,and 13,225 votes for T. D. Kanouse, prohibitionist, and 7,002 for E. P. Allis, greenbacker.

EARLY MENTION OF THE WAR.

[From Vernon county papers.]

1861, May 15. At a meeting of enrolled volunteers at De Soto, T. C. Ankeny was called to the chair, when the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That we unite with the enrolled volunteers of Bad Ax county to form a company for active service.

"*Resolved*, That, for the purpose of organizing said company a meeting be called at the residence of C. G. Allen, in the town of Sterling, at 12 o'clock M., on Saturday, the 18th inst., and invite all volunteers of this county to meet us on that day to elect officers "

May 18. A meeting was held at Debello for the purpose of enrolling volunteers for active service to join a company started at Hillsborough a short time since; about 300 were present. The United States flag was raised amidst the greatest enthusiasm.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. E. Smith. On motion, T. B. Brown was chosen chairman and U Gregory secretary. Speeches were made by Messrs. Smith, Johnson, of Hillsborough: Daniels, of Wonewoc; O'Rourke, of Glendale, and Baker of Plymouth. After the speaking, a call was made for volunteers, and seven enrolled their names. The company now numbers seventy, ten of whom are from the town of Greenwood.

June 26. The Anderson Guards who paid Viroqua a visit on Friday and Saturday last, are a fine body of energetic, wide-awake men. Capt. L. Johnson is a man who is full of military zeal; has done good service in Mexico, and wore, while here, a Mexican military jacket, with pure silver buttons, which he took from a Mexican whom he shot while in the act of robbing him (the Captain), while he lay on the field of battle wounded.

They (the Anderson Guards), added twenty-six recruits to their number from Viroqua and vicinity. They had a fine band, consisting of three brass instruments and a drum and fife with them. The Guard will be mustered into the service of Uncle Samuel at this place (Viroqua), on Monday next.

July 3. The Bad Ax county volunteers, "The Anderson Rifles," arrived here (Viroqua), on Sunday evening, having been brought in from Hazen's by teams from Viroqua, with the assistance of teams that came from the eastern part of the county, where most of the company reside. D. H. Johnson, Esq., and Dr. McKinney were here (Viroqua) before them for the purposes of swearing them in and making the necessary physical examination.

Some were too old, some too young, or could not get consent of parents; some were unsound, but ninety-three or four were put on the roll. We believe that before they leave the county their ranks will be full. Leonard Johnson is captain, and Messrs. Baker and Johnson first and second lieutenants. Among the non-commissioned officers we noticed J. E. Newell, Jr., and Henry Osgood.

The people from Viroqua and vicinity furnished teams to carry them to the Mississippi river, at Bad Ax City, and they were to take a steamer to Prairie du Chien and thence by rail to Camp Randall at Madison. Two out of three of our (the *Northwestern Times*') type setters are members of the company—John L. Somerby and William E. Minshall; also a former apprentice, J. W. Longmire, and a dozen or two of our subscribers.

September 11. The volunteers from this (Bad Ax) county, headed by Capt. James Berry of the Home Guards, arrived safely at Prairie du Chien, where Capt. Berry was elected second lieutenant of the Crawford county company that our boys have united with, and the company has gone on to Madison.

September 25. Lieut. Berry was in town (Viroqua) Sunday one week ago, and on Monday

Carson Graham

the following sons of Bad Ax county went with him to join Capt. Green's Crawford county volunteers—they are all good and true men: William Burns, William Stevenson, Wilson Pitcher, Michael Sallander, William Sallander, Henry W. Allen, George M. Drum, James S. Groves, S. M. Cummings, and McDowell Groves. George Nichols, one of the first squad that joined Capt. Greene, left here (Viroqua) on Sunday, after a short stay with his family, full of devotion to the cause of liberty.

November 13. A most energetic movement is now on foot to raise a new company of volunteers. Men of indomitable perseverance are active at the work. A liberal fund has been already donated by the citizens of this place (Viroqua). The members of the county board now in session here, have formed themselves into a committee to give assistance in their respective towns. Any one who wishes to volunteer, can go into quarters in this place immediately.

November 20. Now is the time to enlist. The Bax Ax county board, who have just adjourned, have passed an order to pay to all children of volunteers under twelve years of age $1 a month. This added to the $100 bounty and $13 a month from the United States, and $5 a month from the State to the wife of each volunteer, makes the pay of the Union soldier ample whether he has a family or not.

December 18. Poetry:

THE BRAVE AT HOME.

The maid who binds her warrior's sash,
With smile that well her pain dissembles,
The while beneath her drooping lash,
One starry tear-drop hangs and trembles;
Tho' heaven alone records the tear,
And fame shall never know her story—
Her heart has shed a drop as dear,
As ever dewed the field of glory.

The wife who girds her husband's sword,
'Mid little ones who weep and wonder,
And bravely speaks the cheering word
What though her heart be rent asunder—
Doomed nightly in her dreams, to hear
The bolts of war around him rattle,
Has shed as sacred blood as e'er
Was poured upon the plain of battle!

The mother who conceals her grief,
While to her breast her son she presses,
Then breathes a few brave words and brief,
Kisses the patriot brow she blesses;
With no one but her secret God
To know the pain that weighs upon her—
Sheds holy blood as ere the sod
Received on Freedom's field of honor.

December 25. We (The *Northwestern Times*) publish this day the muster roll of the Bad Ax Tigers as it now stands. Some who enlisted have backed out, and a number of new ones have been added. It is to be hoped that no member whose name is now on the revised list will show the white feather. The company now numbers 116 hardy men, whose average weight runs up to 167 pounds. This we believe is the heaviest company yet raised in this part of the country.

1862—January 15. Last Friday morning the company of Capt. Layne (the "Bad Ax Tigers"), took its departure for Milwaukee (from Viroqua). The morning was very severe, but, notwithstanding that, the boys seemed anxious to test the breeze and face the storm. Quite early in the morning some fifty women—wives, sweethearts and children—thronged the North Star, to bid farewell to those they loved; and with some of them, a farewell forever.

We were here and there among the assembled crowd and frequently witnessed scenes—sad scenes, but endearing—that portrayed the generous and noble feelings of mature manhood, in parting with the partners with whom they had traveled through the sunshine and shade of life's rough road. We witnessed the meeting and the parting of loving hearts, throbbing with youthful vigor and ardent attachments; young men, impetuous in their desire to wipe out the accursed stain put upon our National banner by the hand of treason, and young female hearts swell with patriotic pride to see those whom they love so dearly and so well eager to

"Strike for their altars and their fires,
God and their native land."

COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE,
VIROQUA, BAD AX COUNTY, WISCONSIN,
January 23, 1862.

I, James Lowrie, county treasurer, hereby certify that I will discharge all costs that may accrue on the tax of 1861, on all lands belonging to any person who may enlist in the service of the United States, in the 1st regiment of Wisconsin Cavalry, until such times as they receive their first payment for such service performed, if it is not longer than three months from this date; and provided further, that the person enlisting shall furnish me a list of lands.

JAMES LOWRIE,
County Treasurer.

February 19. Lieut. T. C. Ankeny started on Monday morning for camp at Kenosha, with the following recruits for Col. Daniel's 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. They went off in good spirits: Orin Wisel, D. A. Davis, Charles K. Chaney, A. W. Partridge, Samuel Hutchins, Henry Turner, Wallace Winn, John Seward, John L. Adams, Benjamin H. Rogers, William Davenport, James W. Curtis, Aaron Cooley, Purley Newton, Jonathan Willard, Napoleon B. Sterling, George Davenport, Thomas Turner, Thomas C. Rutter, Daniel Lawrence, Everett Van Vlack, Leland Brown, George W. Hancock, Jr., and Daniel Frohawk.

CAMP TROWBRIDGE, MILWAUKEE,
February 18, 1862.

* * * It is reported by some of the boys recently returned from Bad Ax, that Caleb Ellis, Esq., offers 120 acres of good prairie land to the person from Bad Ax county who kills Jeff Davis; I wish to say to him that the boys appreciate the patriotism that prompted the offer, and while kindly thanking him for its expression, would say that no reward of a pecuniary nature can increase their desire to do their whole duty. He may rest assured that the boys will endeavor to merit the approval of their friends at home. C.

July 2. Mr. Aaron Cooley, of the town of Freeman, Crawford Co., Wis., died June 9, aged sixty years. Mr. Cooley was a member of the 18th Wisconsin, company C, ("Bad Ax Tigers") and was in the battle of Shiloh. His exposure in connection with that dreadful engagement brought on the disease of which he died.

August 27. Gone to La Crosse. The company lately recruited in this county (afterward known as company A, 25th Wisconsin), went to La Crosse on Monday, 130 strong. The company consists of as noble a set of men as ever went to war.

September 17. Twenty-fifth Regiment. This regiment is expected to leave La Crosse tomorrow. They are as fine, muscular and good-looking a body of men as has left for the war. This county has furnished about 130 men for the regiment, 101 of whom are in Capt. Berry's company, (A). The Vernon county patriots are not surpassed by any company in the regiment.

We find the following interesting statement in the La Crosse *Democrat*:

"Maj. J. M. Rusk was born in Deerfield, Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1830. In 1853 he came to Wisconsin, located at Viroqua, Bad Ax county, since which time he has mostly been engaged in hotel keeping. In 1854 he was elected sheriff, and has filled that office or been under sheriff ever since till the fall of 1861, when he was elected to the State Assembly by a large majority. In July, 1862, he was appointed major of the 25th regiment, and at once entered upon the duties of his new position. He leaves a wife and children at Viroqua. Maj. Rusk is large enough for any office within the gift of the administration, weighing 230 pounds with great ease. He is social and true to a friend, and bids fair to make as popular an officer as is in the service."

September 24. One week ago yesterday Capt. Berry, of Company A, Vernon county patriots, (25th Wisconsin), committed matrimony, by

taking to himself the daughter of our respected citizen, William Spencer, for life. May happiness be their portion.

1st Lieut. C. A. Hunt and twenty-two men of the Adams county company, (a part of the 25th Wisconsin), were recruited in this (Vernon) county, mostly among the Norwegians.

Oct. 29. Immediately after the departure of Capt. Berry's company, the ladies of New Brooksville and vicinity called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Soldiers' Aid Society. and Mrs. S. Minerva Layne was chosen president; Mrs. Eleanor Williams, secretary; and other officers were elected. The following contributions have been made at the various meetings: 14 sheets, 33 pillow cases, 15 pillow ticks, 1 bed tick, 12 new shirts, 5 new pair drawers, 25 towels, 45 handkerchiefs, 20 splint bandages, 2 pounds lint, 32 pads, 175 bandages, 2 cans of honey, 2 cans pie plant, 2 cans tomato butter, 1 can plum preserves, 10 pounds dried fruit, 1 pound sage, and 2 boxes grated horseradish, besides numerous books and illustrated papers.

March 4, 1863. J. L. Somerby, Co. I, of the 6th Wisconsin, has returned to Viroqua in good health, although he was twice wounded at the battle of Gainesville. He is still hoarse from the effects of a secret bullet sent through his neck from a Texan rifle.

August 5. Capt. N. M. Layne, Co. C, of the 18th Wisconsin, arrived home very much reduced by protracted illness. The seats were removed in the stage, and a bed prepared by James Morton, and he came through from Sparta in a day, without injury. Deputy Provost Marshal Poland and Mr. Thomas Decker, who is a member of the captain's company, and who arrived at home three or four days before him, made him a call a few days since, and found him in good spirits and improving. What a world of murder, wounds, sickness and sorrow the villainous leaders of this causeless rebellion will have to answer for.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PIONEER REMINISCENCES.

I. BY ROYAL C. BIERCE.

When I landed at Prairie du Chien on the 17th day of June, 1845, I looked up north over the country that now contains the counties of Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, La Crosse, Jackson, Clark, Dunn, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Barron, St. Croix, Polk, Price, Burnett, Washburn, Ashland, Bayfield and Chippewa, only two of which, Crawford and Chippewa, had existence. The cities of La Crosse, Eau Claire, Hudson, Chippewa Falls, St. Paul and Minneapolis, were not. The years in which their existence was to commence had not come around. The spring before, 1844, as I stood on the deck of a steamer at St. Louis, that was taking on passengers and cargo for a trip up the Mississippi river, I noticed, fixed around on the bow of the boat, painted signs bearing the names of Nauvoo, Keokuk, Dubuque, Prairie La Crosse, Reeds' Landing and St. Peters, denoting that the boat was to touch at those points. These were about all the cities there were at that time between St. Louis and St. Peters, the head of navigation, or supposed to be then, on the Father of Waters. While the name of St. Peters has been lost sight of as a "local habitation," and Prairie La Crosse has been changed to poetic La Crosse, we have at the head of navigation on the

Mississippi, the two magnificent cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis, containing together, a population of 150,000 souls, and each having a reputation that is as wide as the commercial world.

In 1845, when the wintry winds came whistling down from the shores of Lake Superior, the great inland sea whose wide stretch of waters were there hardly looked on by the eye of the white man, they swept over immense and unexplored forests of pine and hard wood timber, unvex'd by the woodman's ax, and the table-lands, the valleys and the patches of prairie that are now full of human habitations and of life, lay in silence awaiting the coming of the hardy pioneer. True, on the Chippewa, the Black, the Red Cedar and the St. Croix, there were a few small saw mills running single saws, and a few woodmen engaged in cutting logs for the mills, and this is all there was to break the silence from the mouth of the Wisconsin river to the shores of Lake Superior.

In 1855, two years after my settlement in Bad Ax county, when the census was taken, Crawford county had a population of 3,323; Bad Ax county, 4,823; La Crosse county, 3,904; Monroe county, 2,407; St. Croix county, 2,040; Trempealeau county, 493; Buffalo county, 832; Chippewa county, 838. The other counties of northwestern Wisconsin were not then in existence. The whole population that was scattered from the Wisconsin river to Lake Superior, even so late as in 1855, was but 18,660. Probably ten years before, in 1845, when I landed at Prairie du Chien, the population did not exceed 1,000 souls in all northwestern Wisconsin.

In 1851 the counties of Bad Ax and La Crosse were organized from portions of the territory of Crawford. In what manner Bad Ax county got its name, no one seemed to know. The oldest settlers did not know. Even the late Judge Wiram Knowlton, of Prairie du Chien, who was quite an archaeologist did not know. There were various theories on the matter. Some contended that the name was a corruption of the French word bateaux; that some French trader loaded *bateaux* with goods to trade to the Indians for furs, and that he anchored his boats at the mouth of the Bad Ax river, and established a trading post there; that the Indians could not say *bateaux*; that the nearest they could come to the pronunciation of the word, was *badax*, and that thus the name of Bad Ax got fastened on the river, and the river gave the name to the county. I do not know how correct this theory may be, one thing is certain, the waters of that river have ever been cool, clear and sparkling, and bright, and the trout that darted through its crystal waters, very large, lively fellows, and of superior flavor. That stream deserves a better name. Another theory of the older settlers was, that in the long, long ago, when Prairie du Chien was nothing but a French trading post, a trader loaded his *bateaux* with goods of various kinds to trade to the Indians for furs; that he, too, moored his boats near the mouth of the Bad Ax, and that he had, among other articles, a large quantity of axes which he traded off to the Indians; that the axes all proved to be *bad*, worthless, and that the trader and the river near whose mouth he traded, got the name of *Bad Ax*, and the latter gave the name to the county. These traditions will probably soon be lost, and the origin of the name will be concealed in eternal mystery.

But whatever may have been the origin of the name, it was from the first a blight to the county, although the old pioneers seemed to be a long while in learning the fact. What has even been a source of wonder to me, is, that the Legislature of the State ever gave such a name to the county, but after it was done, successive Legislatures seemed to take delight in making fun of it, and of its inhabitants. For many years the Legislature held annually, what was called a "Session of the Sovereigns," the whole thing being a huge burlesque, and in those sessions, in one form or another, Bad Ax would be wrung in. On such occasions, the "Gentleman from *Bad Acts*," would figure conspicuously.

It is a fact that letters came to the postoffice in Viroqua with the figures of broken, bruised, battered, bent and twisted axes preceding the word county, thus by caricature indicating the county in which Viroqua was located. Soon after I settled in Viroqua, I saw enough to convince me that the name was retarding the settlement of the county. Still, many of the old pioneers seemed to like the name, and were satisfied with it. There were those who thought the very oddity of the name would attract settlers. In 1859 I made a move towards getting the name changed. I drew up a petition to the Legislature, leaving a blank for the new name, as I had no particular choice, but would have been satisfied with any good name that would be acceptable to the people of the county. I presented the petition to many of the old settlers, not so much for the purpose of getting their names to it, as for the purpose of getting an expression of opinion on the expediency of having the name changed. I saw from the manner in which my petition was received, that the time for getting the name changed had not then come. There were those who said they would ride through the county to get signatures to remonstrances against changing the name if I pressed my petition. I did not press my petition, for I felt assured the changing of the name was only a question of time. There were young people growing up all around to whose ears the name Bad Ax sounded uncouth, and I knew the sturdy pioneer would have to bend to "young America." The change came, however, a little sooner than I expected, for in 1861 Judge Terhune came into my office one day with a petition to the Legislature, asking that the name be changed to Vernon, and with a bill that he had drawn making the change. The bill was well and carefully drawn, and bill and petition were sent to Gov. Rusk, who then represented one of the Assembly districts in Bad Ax county, in the Legislature. He at once introduced the bill, it was soon passed, approved and became a law, and the name Bad Ax went into—not oblivion, unfortunately, but "into the flood of things that are past"—at least so far as applicable to the county. But there was even then too much *bad ax* in the county ; there was Bad Ax City (now Genoa), Bad Ax postoffice (now Liberty Pole), and the Bax Ax river. All have passed away but the river, and let that remain, it is a romantic remembrancer of the past.

In 1853 the population of the county was small and scattering. To the north of the village [Viroqua] I believe no house was visible until the hollow near what is, or used to be, known as the Mead school house. In this hollow were two small log cabins occupied by Norwegians. What became of the Norwegians I do not know. The next house was occupied by Oliver Langdon. It was on the farm owned by the late merchant Goodell. Langdon moved to the southern part of Crawford county many years ago. He was one of the justices of the county in the early days. In the extreme north of Coon prairie Peter La Mois and George Smith had opened farms. These two old pioneers left the county many years ago, Smith going to Kansas and La Mois moving down into Crawford county. Then ten miles north from Viroqua, was the hospitable cabin of the late Ingebregt Homestead. On cold, blustering wintry evenings, any belated traveler that came near his humble home would see a bright light of welcome shining in all the windows. Homestead was, in every sense of the word, a model pioneer. Six miles further north, and just in the edge of Monroe county, although there was no Monroe county then, Jonathan Hazen had established himself. Hazen's father was one of the pioneers of Crawford county, and when the country between Viroqua and Sparta became too thickly settled to suit Jonathan's tastes, with true pioneer instincts,he pulled up his stakes and moved farther west. East of Viroqua one half mile was the farm of Thomas Gillett, Sr., familiarly called "Father Gillett." There was no other settler in that direction except James Foster and William Reed, until the woods bor-

dering the west Kickapoo was reached. Old father Gillett was a marked character. West of the village Ananias Smith was laying the foundations for those large farming operations he afterwards carried on so successfully.

There were no other settlers in that direction until the immediate vicinity of Springville was reached. Here the late John Graham, an imigrant from Indiana, had located and built a flouring mill, and the late Hon. James A. Savage was keeping a dry goods store. South of Viroqua were Nicholas Vought, Ashley Ensign, Judge De Frees and Henry Seifert. Beside these I think there were no other settlers until Liberty Pole was reached.

Almost all pioneers, in whatever direction their lot may be cast, whether north or south, east or west, are marked characters. It will be difficult to do full justice to such old pioneers as Father Gillett, who for years saw the sun rise, circle over and set beyond Round Prairie when it lay in primeval beauty, waiting for other hardy pioneers to come and take possession of it; to the Rev. James A. Cooke, whose great sympathizing heart went out in the fullness of love to everybody; to the saintly Deacon Patterson, who, in the purity of his life, made the whole valley of the Bad Ax lovely because his home was in it; to the venerable Father Nichols,whose pilgrimage extended over four score years; whose hands dispensed blessings; whose voice spoke continual benedictions; whom none knew but to love and none loved but to praise; to Samuel McMichael, of Springville, a bold, out-spoken, uncompromising patriot, who was among the first of the Vernon county hosts to enlist, and who went into the bloody battle of Shiloh, unflinchingly, only to be taken prisoner by the rebels and to languish and die a patriot's death in a rebel prison. But I cannot name—I wish I could—nor even allude to all the pioneers of much maligned Bad Ax county, but now glorious old Vernon county. A large proportion of them have fought life's battle, laid off the armor and fallen "asleep with the fathers." Many died and are buried in the county whose foundations of future prosperity they helped to lay; many moved away and died in other counties and States and some still live either in Vernon or elsewhere.

In 1853 there were but three towns in the county—Viroqua, then known as the town of Farwell, in honor of Gov. Farwell; Jefferson and the town of Franklin, then called the town of Bad Ax. From these three all the other towns that now compose the county have been organized. There were at that early day many prominent men in the county. There were Griggs, Lawrence and Higgins in the southern part; W. S. Purdy in the southwestern part; Berry and Ira Stevens at Victory; Savage, Sudderth, Spencer and Cale in Springville and vicinity: Homestead and Ole A. Running in the northern part and H. C. Sayres on the Mississippi, in what is now the town of Genoa. At Readstown there were Orrin Wisel and William H. Austin.

The late Hon. Andrew Briggs was supervisor of the town of Bad Ax; Edmond Strang of the town of Jefferson, and, I think, Oliver Langdon was the supervisor for the town of Viroqua, or Farwell, rather,as it was then called. Those three gentlemen constituted the county board of supervisors, and the late Hon. William C. McMichael was the clerk.

None of these men are now alive, unless it be Strang and Langdon; but, living or dead, this may be said of that county board and of its clerk, in all their official acts: They worked for the best interests of the county; they all had faith in the future, that the county had a prosperous and influential future before it, and they shaped their legislation accordingly. Indeed, it was one of the strong arguments of the men who opposed the changing of the name of the county, that it was so favored with rich soil, fine prairies, splendid timber lands, wholesome waters and quarries of stone, that let the name of the county be what it might, it was destined to be a

populous, rich, intelligent, influential and strong county in the State in the near future. And the faith of the old pioneers was well founded. Vernon was somewhat late, perhaps, in coming to the front, but when she came, she came to stay. Like every other newly settled portion of the country, she has had at various times within her borders some exceedingly hard cases. Her soil has been stained with blood shed by murderous hands, and private property has been at times at the mercy of thieves and robbers. But, undoubtedly, during all the years of her existence, she has maintained as healthy a tone of public and private morals as any other county or community of the same age. Surely, considering her years, she can boast as many churches and schools, as many pleasant hearthstones and strong young men and lovable young women as any of her sister counties in northwestern Wisconsin.

In 1855–6 I was assessor and collector of taxes for the town of Viroqua, with the exception of the new town of Hillsboro, which embraced the two townships east of the meridian line. The town of Viroqua embraced all the territory of the northeastern part of the county, including the present town of Christiana. In the winter when I was collecting taxes, it was hard to tell which were most proprietors, white people, Indians, or bear and deer. I certainly had many dreary walks through the forests, where are now the towns of Webster, Whitestown, Clinton, Forest, etc. The humble log cabins of the early settlers were very few and very far between, and considered myself very fortunate in being near some pioneer cabin when night overtook me. It will not be amiss, perhaps, for me to relate one little incident that transpired while I was performing the duties of assessor and collector. I was assessing the property of an honest Norwegian farmer, in the north part of what is now Christiana, and in assessing his personal property he told me, as I understood him, that he had eighty head of sheep. I wondered where in creation he could keep so many sheep, and I asked him several times about them, but I understood him every time to give the number as eighty. So I assessed him eighty sheep. In the winter when I went to him to collect his tax,he thought it was very high,so he sent for a neighbor who could talk good English to come in and see how it happened that his tax was so high. The neighbor came, and wanted me to read over the man's assessment, and I read it over, and everything was satisfactory until I came to the sheep, then I learned that it was eight sheep he had instead of eighty.

For eighteen years I watched the growth and development of the county, from its chrysalis state in 1853, until it had broadened out into an influental county in 1877, commanding the respect of the other counties in the State. It will be well to notice a few things that transpired during that period of time, and that materially aided the county in its social, moral and intellectual development.

And the first that I will notice is a great debate that occurred in the winter of 1854, that not only called out all the home talent, but called in several speakers from outside the county. The subject of debate was the teachings of the Bible on the question of human slavery. I cannot tell now how the debate originated, further than that it grew out of a sermon preached, or a lecture delivered, by the Rev Ira Wilcox, who, I believe, still lives, enjoying a venerable old age. He was in active service there as a Wesleyan minister, and was a strong anti-slavery man. Who it was that first took the position that the Bible justified African slavery as it existed in the southern States, and maintained it in a public address in reply to Mr. Wilcox, I do not now remember; but it was done by some one. This called out a reply, either from Mr. Wilcox or his son-in-law, the Rev. Aaron Cooley, and the result was a debate that extended through several weeks. I recollect very well of Judge Terhune, Cyrus F. Gillett, R. P. Gillett, Rev. Daniel Parkinson,

George McCormick, H. W. McAuley, Revs. Ira Wilcox and Aaron Cooley, of the county, speaking in the debate, and I remember that I spoke once myself. There was also a gentleman who came down from Monroe county by the name of Rathburn, and who was, I believe, at that time the county judge of Monroe county, to speak in the debate, and one or two other gentlemen whose names I have forgotten, likewise where they came from, participated in the discussion. The debate was held in the old log court house, which was filled night after night to its utmost capacity with eager listeners, who came from far and near. Probably such a debate would not create much excitement in Vernon county now, but then it was something new to have such a debate there; it was the topic of conversation by the fireside, in the workshop and on the streets. People came from Springville, from Liberty Pole, and from the Kickapoo woods to listen. It was the first time that a subject had arisen that called out such a universal expression of opinion, and it made the people acquainted with the scope of home talent in debate. In this respect it set the people forward. I shall be pardoned for relating one incident that transpired during the progress of the discussion.

Capt. O. C. Smith, then a resident of the county, but now a citizen of Dodgeville, was at the first a strong anti-slavery man. He was raised in southern Ohio, and so near the line of the "underground railroad" that every fibre was imbued with hatred of slavery. But in the course of the discussion he became converted to the doctrine that the Bible justified slavery, and he proposed to maintain his views with a speech. So he came in one evening with a large Bible under his arm, and when the meeting was called to order, he ascended the platform that was "desk" for the school teacher, "pulpit" for the clergyman and "bench" for the court, and prefaced his argument by reading this extract from Job: "I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not show you my opinion. I said, days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. Great men are not always wise; neither do the aged understand judgment; therefore, I said, hearken to me; I also will show my opinion. Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, whilst ye searched out what to say. Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, or that considered his words." And applying the quotation from the Bible to those who had maintained in debate that the Bible did not sanction human slavery, he went on and made a strong argument that it did. Whether the captain was really convinced as he pretended to be, or not, I cannot say.

Another thing I will mention was the establishment of a newspaper in the county. Although the *Western Times* did not do much towards leading public opinion, and did less towards forming it, still the columns of the *Times* afforded the people an opportunity to express publicly their opinion on the current topics of the day, if they desired to do so, and it gave local tradesmen and mechanics a chance to advertise their wares and their trades. By means of the exchanges in the printing office, Bad Ax county was brought into connection with the rest of the world. The editor, as a general thing, made a judicious selection from other papers of articles for his, and the *Western Times* became quite a factor in the work of educating, bringing together and assimilating the pioneers of the county. It had a tendency to make the settlers one people. When they began to assimilate they began to improve, morally, socially and intellectually.

Another event that greatly aided in the development of the county was the organization of the county agricultural society. I look upon the county agricultural society as one of the great educators of the day. It gives the farmers and mechanics and tradesmen, their wives,

sons and daughters, an opportunity to come together and exhibit with just pride, the products of their fields, warehouses and shops, their gardens, looms and spinning wheels and needles. It is not easy to measure the extent of the influence for good that the winning of a premium at such an exhibition has. We may not feel that influence, but it is potent in some breast. To the honor of Vernon county be it said that she has not failed to hold an exhibition every year since the society was organized. For a few years when the society was weak, it was a burden to some to carry it along. But the right men had hold of it and clung to it, and knowing the great advantage to the county it would ultimately prove to be, when of sufficient age and vigor to go alone, they never faltered. Charles Waters, Capt. Cade, Ananias Smith, J. A. Somerby, Ralph Hall, F. K. Van Wagoner, Alson Keeler and others whose names might be mentioned, carried it along till the time came around when it did not have to struggle for existence.

Another event that put Vernon county a long step forward was the elevation of George Gale to the bench as judge of the sixth circuit. There were dignity, sobriety, legal knowledge and learning all combined in the judge.

The old lawyers who had been admitted to the bar by courtesy, because they had been or were justices of the peace, gradually disappeared. The people knew full well that the public safety—the protection of life, of property, and all the rights that grow out of the domestic relations—rests securely only in the prompt, impartial, yet stern administration of the laws of the land, and universal satisfaction followed the election of George Gale. Since his time the sixth circuit has had a superior class of judges in the persons of Flint, Bunn and Newman.

But Vernon county lifted itself up to a very high position in the sight of the world when she gave her stalwart men so freely to the Nation in defense of its unity against the assaults of rebels and traitors. The county was intensely radical in its devotion to the Union. She had been for some years growing up to a very high standard. There are some yet living in Viroqua who will recall the time and place, and remember with what zeal a large majority of the people united one night in burning in effigy Stephen A. Douglas, on the repeal of the Missouri compromise. Staid, sober men became fairly wild with enthusiasm as the effigy, which had been carefully prepared by Thomas Crawford and others, lit up the whole heavens as it hung burning from the high limb of a stately oak—one of hundreds that shadowed all the ground on the west side of Main street. Equal zeal was manifested when a mass meeting was called to organize the republican party out of the ruins of the old whig party, with the help of such democrats, who, foreseeing the storm that was sure to come, arraigned themselves distinctively with the party whose fundamental principle was: "no further extension of slavery." But I would not by any means intimate that the democrats of Vernon county were less loyal to the government than the republicans were. The county, at the time of its organization, was democratic, and remained so until 1856. And while during the war the democratic party in that county barely maintained its existence, yet some of the best men of the county were democrats all the time. They were staunch but loyal in their democracy, and they never voted under any other name. It was no copperhead democracy; it was the democracy of Jefferson and Jackson. It was their political religion and they lived true to their faith.

The people of Vernon county watched with anxiety the clouds that flitted athwart the political horizon from 1854 up to 1861; and when Sumter was fired on, all the patriotism of the people was aroused. In June and July, 1861, company I of the immortal 6th regiment was recruited principally in Vernon county. It was the first opportunity the county had of

showing in a tangible way her readiness to throw herself

"I' the imminent, deadly breach."

And her young men came thickly forward,

"———forming in the ranks of war."

While I do not suppose Vernon county outran her sister counties in her devotion to the Union, and while I suppose her sons did not display any greater readiness to volunteer than did the men of other counties; yet she was not behind in any respect. She kept her quotas so well filled under every call for volunteers, that few, very few, had to be drafted. The county was represented in almost every regiment that went out of the State, and it may be said of her, changing somewhat the language of Webster: "The bones of her sons falling in the great struggle of the Union with the armed hosts of rebels, now lie mingled with the soil of every State from Virginia to Texas, and there they will lie forever."

II

BY MRS. CYRUS D. TURNER.

Three young men, Hartwell, Cyrus and Jerry Turner left Stykeesville and Sheldon, Wyoming Co., N. Y., about the 1st of May, 1854, and came west, making explorations for government lands, intending to go into the Bad Ax river valley; but, way-worn and weary from many miles of travel, they stopped for a time at Mr. Wilson's, at Kickapoo Center, to rest. Mr. Wilson told the boys there was government land up the Kickapoo three or four miles. So here they came, and after looking over the valley as best they could, they concluded to enter lands here. Hartwell took lands on Camp creek and some in Vernon county. Cyrus took lands in Richland and some in Vernon. Jerry took a tract in Vernon, where Mr. Gill's residence now is, which he afterwards traded for the farm of Mr. Richards near the town plat of Viola.

These men returned to New York, where Cyrus and Jerry remained until September. While they were here they located a site for a mill and town. The mill now owned by A. C. Cushman stands where they located the town plat across and higher up the river, and in Richland instead of Vernon.

A short time after they had returned home, Hartwell again came back and entered more lands, and with him came Lyman Jackson. Mr. Jackson entered lands where Mr. Sommers' residence now is, and Hartwell and Jackson both built log buildings, Jackson on said premises and Hartwell near the mouth of Camp creek. Then Hartwell again returned to New York, Mr. Jackson remained here expecting his family to come on in company with the Turners. The 1st of September five families came: William Turner and wife; Hartwell, wife and two children; Cyrus Turner and wife and two boys; Salma Rogers and wife and two children; Lyman Jackson's wife and two children; Jerry Turner, John Fuller and Asa Petten. Asa Petten soon returned to New York. Boxes were constructed for household goods and merchandise and labeled Viola, Wis., of which place we all had about as much real knowledge as we have of the "man in the moon."

We came around the lakes to Milwaukee, and from there with our own teams. Our journey was altogether a pleasant one until we left Richland Center, then a town invisable, and entered the woods, with sometimes a road and sometimes not. Crying children, tipped over wagons and camping out, sitting up on chairs for fear of snakes, helped fill the programme of our journey; many walked as long as strength lasted rather than peril the lives of the little ones which they carried in their arms and on their shoulders.

Well we did, after spending two nights in the woods, arrive at a jumping off place, which proved to be Kickapoo Center; poles had to be placed in the upper hill wheels of the wagons to prevent the wagons from turning summersault, and going down, down, down, we did not know where to, but in due time the roof of a small low log building greeted our view. Here

Cyrus Turner left his family for a few days, for his youngest son, Winett C. Turner, was quite sick. The rest of the colony moved on up the river to establish themselves in the log mansions prepared for them, which Mr. Jackson and Hartwell had built; in the intervening time of absence Laal Clift and family from Illinois, formerly of New York, moved into the pioneer mansion of Camp creek until he had built one for himself, where his residence is now.

Cyrus Turner looked over his land entries and proceeded to lay out a town line, his first survey did not please him, and he again made another plat which is now a part of the city property, although some of the streets have been fenced up for many year. The first thing to be done was to excavate a log for a canoe with which to transfer travelers from shore to shore of the Kickapoo, which was fordable where the Waggoner's mill now stands. The next, a double log building, was erected just in front of the horseshoe bend on the eastern bank of the river fronting the river, and the maple trees now there mark the spot in front of the house, and where all the road there was then.

Into this double log house he moved his family and merchandise about the middle of December; with John Fuller's help he built stables, and thus was made as comfortable for winter as circumstances would admit.

Part of the pioneer building was used for a store, and in the store the next summer a school was taught—this being the first school — by Helen Jackson. The winter of 1854—5 was mostly spent in hauling provision, making roads, and trying to get enough timber cleared away to enable the sun to shine in upon us.

House building was yet in its infancy here. The Gothic, Ionic, Doric orders of architecture are but little known; the style of which all the principal buildings here are composed may be termed "Kickapooric," for several sprang into existence about this time, which consisted of rolling logs up on to each other so as to enclose a square pen until the required height was obtained when the structure was covered with split boards, called shakes in western vernacular, which are nailed on by placing poles across them, thus making a very picturesque roof and a well ventilated attic. The space usually inclosed is about 18x20 feet or about the size of your dining-room. This is the house of the pioneer, this little room is the kitchen, dining-room, pantry, bed-room, nursery, and frequently the up-stairs and down cellar for a family of about a dozen members; into this are stowed beds, chests, dishes, boxes, babies, pots, kettles, and all the trumpery and paraphenalia, and you can easily imagine what a paradise of commotion it is, there cannot be much of coveting for all are on an equality even in taking pleasure rides after ox teams and faring sumptuously upon wild game or mush and milk, or the most dainty dish of all, batter, warm griddle slap, pan cakes with pumpkin butter or wild honey. Our first religious sermon was preached in this pioneer building by Mr. Neher, of Forest, and in the summer of 1855 a little log school house was erected near the county line, and in a remote part of the town plat. Here our Sabbath school was organized, a library from the America Sunday School Union was procured, and we did well, notwithstanding all our difficulties; trees were chopped down, corn and potatoes planted, if disposed to indolence the melodious music of the mosquito or the silent aches of our limbs reminded us of action, by fighting mosquitoes or rubbing our rheumatic limbs, or pass the time in shaking our superfluous flesh off.

In the latter part of the summer of 1855, Mr. Algees and family came, and with him Sarah. John Fuller saw fit to take to himself a wife, and said Sarah was the bride. The marriage ceremony was performed by Mr. Wilson, J. P. of Vernon Co., and the guests, bride and groom marched down the river over the county line, as supposed (but didn't), that the ceremony

might be valid, and there under the canopy of Heaven, cheered by the rippling music of the waters, by a large log on the bank of the Kickapoo, the sacred pledges were taken. This was the first wedding. Andrew Hall came this year and located lands, where the old pioneer building, above or on where the Richards farm now stands,and returned to New York, and now the winter is upon us, and we prepare to clear up, and the exercises are changed—land-lookers cease to come among us, and the Indians take their places for company. And now we have to exert ourselves considerably in order to keep from freezing, which can only be done by stirring rapidly about, rubbing, robed in buffalo robes or bear skins. If we can survive the night the sun may shine in upon us at about 10 o'clock, and relieve us of some of the intense cold, by placing the thermometer in a position to receive its most direct rays, or as the little boy says, "Papa, bring in the thermometer, and it will thaw out!" In 1856, Mr. Hull and family came and moved into the log house above Mr. Richards', which he soon exchanged with D.C. Turner for the lands he now owns, and where he has so long kept hotel. The day that he moved here his son, Jasper C. Hull, was born, thus the first birth—but not on the town plat—Oct. 1, 1856. This same fall C. D. Turner built a small plank house—where Mr. Cushman's house now stands, and moved into that.

William Mack, a half breed from Picatonic country, now appears among us. He bought out the store of D. C. Turner, and built a wooden structure, which is now attached to Mr. Tate's store. With Mr. Mack came Mr. Goodrich and family. Mr. Goodrich built a plank house on block three, which is still standing. Here his little daughter, Libbie Goodrich died. This was the first death. She was buried near the house on the said lot, near the southern line of the street, where her grave is indistinct.

In the fall of 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Keith, teachers in the Brown school of Chicago, spent their summer vacation in Viola with the family of D.C. Turner. In three days after their return to Chicago, Howey Willie Turner, D. C. Turner's oldest son, was a corpse. Here appears Dr. Gott, of Viroqua, for the first time; yet his skill was of no avail. This child's death was a crushing calamity upon his family.

Mr. Keith, Howey Willie and Freddie Turner were buried on the mound between the residence of Charley Tate and Nelson Buegor's store for several years, but disinterred in 1869, and removed to the Viroqua cemetery, along with the remains of William Turner.

In the year 1857 Viola Mack was born, and received a lot in block three for her name. This year also D. C. Turner bought out Mr. Mack, and commenced buying ginseng, which business he followed for eight successive years. Buying and clarifying and drying was also largely carried on by James Turner and Henry Livingston, from Kentucky.

D. C. Turner built another store, and the old Mack building was used for a dry house. The store then built is now a part of H. C. Cushman's.

Our teachers were Salma Rogers, Helen Jackson, Jennie Loveless, Marion Gill, (afterwards Mrs. Dr. Gott, of Viroqua), and Miss Dailey, of Readstown.

Mr. George Nutzem preached here often, and general good feeling prevailed under his supervision.

Our postoffice was established as a side office, and the mail was carried from Viola to Kickapoo Center by some one hired by private persons. At one time D. C. Turner gave the mail carrier ($20) twenty dollars to get the office on the route, which was done for one week only, and again thrown off.

Lots were sold and given away. Salma Rogers was offered (10) ten acres of land adjoining the town—where Mr. Cushman's residence, Waggoner's store and many other buildings are now—if he would only build himself a

house on it; but he would not heed the Macedonian cry of come and help us.

The fall of 1856 Harry Turner and family, Mr. Gill and family, Mr. Loveless and family, Amos Fuller and family came on. Harry Turner bought out Lyman Jackson; Mr. Gill bought out the tract of land, Jerry Turner had entered and now resides there. Amos Fuller went to blacksmithing, got sick of the country, and went back in the fall of 1857. In the fall of 1859 Henry M. Keith and family came here and bought the pioneer home of Mr. Hull. Mr. Keith had been obliged to resign his situation in the Brown school of Chicago on account of ill health. He received a death blow from a band of ruffians in that school building of which account the papers of Chicago detailed in full particulars. Mrs. Keith taught our school one summer, before her husband's death, which occurred Feb. 18, 1861. In the winter of 1859–60 our school house was made lively frequently from time to time, in which Jerry Turner and Van S. Bennett figured largely.

1858–9. About this time several acres of land were given by C. D. Turner for a cemetery on the mound east of the new school house, where Mr. Clark now resides. This did not suit and became outlawed. Mr. Keith, consequently, was buried and removed, as before mentioned.

1860–1. The second pioneer house was removed, and the residence Mr. Cushman now occupies was erected. John Fuller left for California. Mrs. Keith left for the Chicago school again. General political excitement prevailed: the war was upon us; consequently no improvements were made for some time.

Jerry Turner enlisted; was second lieutenant, then first, then captain of company H, 5th Wisconsin Infantry. Here is an extract from Benjamin Lawton's letter, as written to Harry Sherme's family: "He fell while charging on Mary's hill, back of the city of Fredericksburg. He was struck in the head by a large ball; I think it must have been a canister shot, for it made a hole about the size of a canister shot. He was shot so dead that he did not move. He was a brave and noble soldier. We mourn his loss and always will. He has been the main stay of company H ever since we came out. When the captain fell I staid with him and took care of his body, which I agreed to do when I first came out; I told him I should stand by his side until the last, and I have done so. I tried my best to get his body embalmed and sent to you; but I could not for want of an ambulance to get it carried to Falmuoth. Our quarter-master assisted me all he could, but it could not be got, for every thing in the shape of wagons was used to bring the wounded off the field, so we had to bury him in the city." He was killed May 3, 1863.

He made us his last visit on his thirty-first birth-day, the 16th of February before his death.

Company I, of the 12th Wisconsin Infantry, was organized and drilled here until ordered to headquarters. Hartwell Turner was captain of this company. While this regiment was in Leavenworth he was very sick. C. D. Turner, his brother, went to and staid with him till he could be brought home.

From 1861 to 1864 it was only *war*, *war*, *war*, until scarcely an able bodied man was left in the town of Forest in 1865. D. C. Turner was quite sick, was drafted, and Dr. Terhune, of Viroqua, reported for him, as he was under the doctor's care for sometime, until he was able to go to Boscobel, prepared to furnish a substitute, but was not accepted. From this time more or less sickness followed. He gave up the mercantile business and sold out to Mr. Tate. In 1865 Mr. Harrington and family, John Bryan and C. Ward, came. N. D. Ward, of the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, returned from Texas.

1866—The new school building was erected in 1867. D. C. Turner built the store Mr. Waggoner now occupies, and commenced the mercantile business again; bought out the

steam mill and sold it again—hardships of pioneerlife told by failing health— and in 1868 the farm was sold, the store closed out and the building sold to Alonzo Clark. Every line of business was settled up and closed out, and in the spring of 1869 he looked over the southwest Missouri country, and purchased lands in Dade county, two and one half miles west of Greenfield. To this home he moved his family in the spring of 1870. His health improved by this change of climate; he built a house, planted on orchard, and made improvements, for about two years, when he gave up work entirely, each day taking a little less exercise, until November, 1873; then he could no more move around with us, to cheer us by his loving, patient endurance. He was confined to his bed for three months, when, on the 5th day of March, 1874, he passed

"As a summer cloud away—
As sinks the gale when storms are o'er,
Or dies the wave along the shore,"

in his fifty-first year.

His remains were sent to Viroqua, and there the last solemn rites were given him by the Masonic Order. He had many, many friends in his new home in Missouri. He is gone from us, but his *life* still lives, for he was a kind husband and an indulgent father.

By his son—an only child—Dewitt C. Turner, will the name of that particular Turner family be perpetuated or become extinct.

Of the five original families that came to Viola in 1854, only two are here now—Salma Rogers' and H. L. Turner's. Of the twenty persons, or children, of that time, these are still living: Salma Rogers and wife and two children; Mary Bews, of Deadwood; Frank Rogers, of Viola; Hartwell Turner and wife, Lyman Jackson, wife and son, of Oregon, Wis.; Helen Jackson Drenn, of Centralia, Ill.; Dewitt C. Turner and his mother, Greenfield, Mo.

These are deceased: William Turner and wife, Cyrus D. Turner and son, George Turner, Alice Turner Waggoner, Jerry Turner and John Fuller.

III—BY FLORA DE FREES WEEDEN

I wrote lately to an old friend, living at a distance for information, and have just received a letter from her, and learn that the first death in Vernon county was a child of William C. McMichael; it died February, 1847, at the spring afterward known as the Silver Springs Mill, two miles east of Viroqua. The mill burned down four or five years since. The next death was that of Mrs. Rice, who died September, 1847.

Jacob Johnson, a brother-in-law of T. J. DeFrees, emigrated to Vernon county with the latter. He died in 1870, and is buried at Viroqua. His wife is living in southern Iowa at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, is still enjoying reasonable health, reads the news, and keeps up with the times. Mrs. Nancy B. DeFrees, my mother, died March 14, 1882, at the age of seventy-seven, is buried in the cemetery in this city. I noticed in a sketch of Vernon county a short time ago, that Dr. Tinker was mentioned as the first physician. Such is not the case. Dr. H. G. Weeden was the first regular practicing physician in the county. He located there in the fall of 1851. Dr. Tinker arrived two or three years later. Dr. Weeden was a man of culture and refinement, had received a finished education in the east. For many years he was the leading physician in the county. The fearful tornado which visited Viroqua June 28, 1865, killed one of his children—a little girl three years old—and injured himself and wife very seriously. It also destroyed their nice home and much valuable property. The doctor never recovered entirely from the shock. He went to Montana in the spring of 1866, and died there in the fall of 1872. His wife and daughter still reside in that remote territory.

The Sterlings were a prominent family in the early settlement of the county. They located on West Prairie, in the fall or winter of 1846.

The old gentleman died there many years after, and his two sons, Louis and Lee Grant lived in the locality till after the close of the war of the rebellion, when the former emigrated to Missouri. The latter still resides in the county, I believe.

William H. Purdy was also a leading citizen in early time. He held various offices in the county, is now a resident of Pratt Co., Kansas. George A. Swain and James Cook settled there in the spring of 1847, the former at what is now Brookville, the latter, on his farm east of Viroqua. They were leading members of the M. E. Church, and in early times did much toward the support and permanent organization of that society. The have both died within the last year. Mr. Cook at his home near Viroqua, and Mr. Swain in eastern Kansas.

James Bailey was an early settler. He came with his wife, to what is now Liberty Pole, in the autumn of 1846, soon returned to Prairie du Chien, where his wife died, he came back to Vernon county, and soon married a Miss Clark, residing on West Prairie. She and her sister, who married a Mr. Chandler, were wedded at the same time. My father officiated, he being then county judge, making one ceremony do for both couples.

I also remember a couple in Vernon county —I purposely omit names—for whom my father obtained a divorce. A few weeks after they again presented themselves for the purpose of being married. He performed the ceremony which again made them husband and wife. But only a short time elapsed, before they again appeared asking for another divorce, and it was again procured for them. Subsequently both parties married, it is to be hoped with happier results.

I also remember a woman who came there leaving a husband in the east. She soon married a dashing widower. It afterward transpired that she had never obtained a divorce from her first husband. The last husband had promised to get one for her after their marriage. But he failed to keep his promise, and she appealed to my father for redress. He secured for her a divorce from the first husband, and then she was again married, or rather remarried to the second.

Among the early settlers in Springville were Isaac and William Spencer, Charles and Henry Waters, Dr. Sudduth, Mr. Strange, the Cheatham brothers, and others that might be mentioned. Isaac Spencer was a man of culture and ability. When he came to Springville he was a widower. He soon after married a Mrs. Thompson, a widow, from Bad Ax city. Her first husband was drowned from off a steamboat near that place. The lady was young and interesting, and very much attached to her husband. The evening she was expecting him home she went to neighbor's to borrow a candle, said she wanted to burn it out looking at Mr. Thompson, as she had not seen him for some time. An hour or two after, his dripping corpse was borne into her presence.

In the spring of 1853 O. C. Weeden came to Viroqua, from Vermont, and soon followed a number more of New England people, making valuable additions to society.

During the years of 1846–7, the residents of the county all went to Prairie du Chien for their mail matter, and it was understood that any person going, was to bring the mail for the entire neighborhood. Even with that arrangement, sometimes weeks would elapse between the times of receiving the mail. That hardly compares with this age of steam and daily mails.

In those first years the inhabitants of the county were obliged to go to Prairie du Chien for all their supplies, and many of them went with ox teams.

Neighborhood dances were at that time a favorite amusement with many of the settlers. Spelling schools were also a pleasant and profitable pastime. The young people, and some who were not so young, would gather at the log school house, or at the cabin of some resident, choose sides and spell. Those who stood

longest without missing a word were the victors; and many times there would be three or four, perhaps half a dozen, who would not be spelled down at all. W. W. DeFrees, Milton Southwick, Esther A. Bishop and Lida P. DeFrees were almost invariably on the floor last and were considered the champion spellers. Lida P. DeFrees died March 11, 1869; W. W. DeFrees, Feb. 7, 1870. They both lie buried in the cemetery of Viroqua. Milton Southwick, I think, is still a resident of the county, and Esther A. Bishop, long since married, has for many years resided in Nebraska.

Michael Hinkst was an early settler. He located near the Liberty Pole, was remarkable for being an original and eccentric character. He was for a time school superintendent, and taught one or two terms. Some amusing stories are told of his novel methods of governing.

Isaac Spencer was the first school superintendendent. That was when the town system prevailed. Rev. L. L. Radcliff was the first county superintendent. After him came Hartwell Allen, who is doubtless still a resident of Vernon county. He served a number of terms, was a popular and efficient officer. He is a man of much natural ability, a great reader and a deep thinker. I think he has long since retired to the shades of private life.

CHAPTER XIX.

ELECTION RETURNS.

In this connection is given the official vote of Vernon county for every year from 1851 to 1883 inclusive as far as could be ascertained from the records in the clerk's office. In some years the number of votes cast could not be found and where this is the case, the names of the officers elected are given:

ELECTION, APRIL, 1851.

County Judge.

T. J. Defrees, (elected for four years.)... .....No Opposition

Sheriff.

Rufus Gillett..... .....No Opposition

District Attorney.

Lorenzo A. Pierce..... .....No Opposition

Clerk of County and of Circuit Court.

Orrin Wisel..... .....No Opposition

Treasurer.

James A. Cooke.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

Jocob Higgins.....No Opposition

Surveyor.

Samuel McMichael..... ...No Opposition

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1851.

Governor.

D. A. J. Upham..... 45—15
Leonard J. Farwell..... 30

Lieutenant Governor.

Timothy Burns..... 55—35
James Hughes..... 20

Secretary of State.

Charles D. Robinson..... 47—18
Robert W. Wright..... 29

State Treasurer.

Edward H. Janson... ..... 47—19
Jefferson Crawford..... 28

Attorney General.

Exprience Estabrook..... 48—21
John Trasdale..... 27

State Superintendent.

Ahel P. Ludd..... 58—57
E. Root 1
Scattering 1

District Attorney.

Lorenzo A. Pierce (majority)..... 78

Clerk of County and Circuit Court.

William McMichael.....113

Treasurer.

John Longley..... .....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

Jacob Higgins..... 132

Sheriff.

James M. Bailey (majority)..... 53

County Surveyor.

Samuel McMichael..... 38—36
Isaac Spencer. 2

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1853.

Sheriff.

J. M. Bailey.....No Opposition

Cnunty Clerk and Clerk of Circuit Court

W. C. McMichael.....No Opposition

District Attorney.

T. J. DeFrees.....No Opposition

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

S. C. Lincoln.....No Opposition

Surveyor.

Samuel McMichael.....No Opposition

ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 6, 1855.

Governor.

Coles Bashford.....306—108
William A. Barstow.....298

Lieutenant Governor.

Arthur McArthur.....317—15
Charles C. Sholes.....302

Secretary of State.

David W. Jones.....317—16
Samuel D. Hastings.....301

State Treasurer.

Charles Kuehn.....318—109
Charles Roeser.....209

Attorney General.

William R. Smith.....317—14
Alexander W. Randall.....303

State Superintendent.

A. Constantine Berry.....318—16
John G. McMynn.....302

Bank Comptroller.

William N. Dennis.....318—16
Francis H. West.....302

Prison Commissioner.

Edward McGarry.....318—15
James Gidding.....303

County Judge.

William F. Terhune.....No Opposition

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

William C. McMichael.....No Opposition

Sheriff

J. M. Rusk.....No Oppostion

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

William F. Terhune.....No Opposition.

County Clerk.

A. K. Burrell.....No Opposition.

District Attorney.

Thomas J. De Frees.....No Opposition.

Surveyor.

W. F. Beavers.....No Opposition.

ELECTION, APRIL 1, 1856.

Circuit Judge.

George Gale.....279—34
W. Knowlton.....245

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1857.

Governor.

Alexander W. Randall.....549—104
James B. Cross.....445

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1856.

President.

John C. Fremont, (Majority).....387

Congressman.

C. C. Washburn, (Majority).....387

State Senator.

William T. Pierce, (Majority).....347

Assemblyman.

Buel E. Hutchinson, (Majority).....383

Surveyor, (To fill Vacancy.)

Samuel McMichael.....No Opposition

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Alexander W. Randall.....549—104
James B. Cross.....445

Lieutenant Governor.

Carl Schurtz.....539—91
Erosmus Campbell.....448

Secretary of State.

John L. V. Thomas.....528—63
David W. Jones.....465

State Treasurer

Samuel D. Hastings.....549—104
Carl Habich.....445

Attorney General.

Mortimer M. Jackson.....554—136
Gabiel Bouck.....418

State Superintendent.

John G. McMynn.....546—102
Lyman C. Draper.....444

Bank Comptroller.

John P. McGregor.....538—95
Joel C. Squires.....443

Prison Commissioner.

Edward M. McGraw.....986

State Senator.

Edwin Flint.....514—4
W. H. Tucker.....510

Assemblyman.

William C. McMichael.....523—62
James R. Savage.....461

Clerk of Circuit Court.

John R. Casson.....507—25
William C. McMichhel.....482

County Clerk.

Samuel McKitrick.....576—201
William F. White.....375

District Attorney.

R. C. Bierce.....563—171
William H. Austin.....392

Sheriff.

William P. Clark.....386—111
Hugh McDill.....275
A. R. Burrell.....234
Scattering.....90

Register of Deeds.

Daniel P. Allison.....324—50
William F. Terhune.....274

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....370—120
W. F. White.....250

Surveyor.

Greene Spurrier.....514—42
James Brown.....472

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Rufus Gillett..... .....No Opposition

District Attorney.

Lorenzo A. Pierce.....No Opposition

Clerk of County and of Circuit Court.

Orrin Wisel.....No Opposition

Treasurer.

James A. Cooke.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

Jocob Higgins.....No Opposition

Surveyor.

Samuel McMichael.....No Opposition

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1851.

Governor.

D. A. J. Upham..... 45—15
Leonard J. Farwell..... 30

Lieutenant Governor.

Timothy Burns..... 55—35
James Hughes..... 20

Secretary of State.

Charles D. Robinson..... 47—18
Robert W. Wright..... 29

State Treasurer.

Edward H. Janson..... 47—19
Jefferson Crawford..... 28

Attorney General.

Exprience Estabrook..... 48—21
John Trasdale..... 27

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E. Root 1
Scattering 1

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Jacob Higgins..... 132

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Samuel McMichael..... 38—36
Isaac Spencer. 2

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1853.

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J. M. Bailey.....No Opposition

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W. C. McMichael.....No Opposition

District Attorney.

T. J. DeFrees.....No Opposition

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

S. C. Lincoln.....No Opposition

Surveyor.

Samuel McMichael.....No Opposition

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Governor.

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Lieutenant Governor.

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Charles C. Sholes.....302

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Samuel D. Hastings.....301

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Alexander W. Randall.....303

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John G. McMynn.....302

Bank Comptroller.

William N. Dennis.....318—16

Francis H. West.....302

Prison Commissioner.

Edward McGarry.....318—15

James Gidding.....303

County Judge.

William F. Terhune.....No Opposition

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

William C. McMichael.....No Opposition

Sheriff

J. M. Rusk.....No Oppostion

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....No Opposition

Register of Deeds.

William F. Terhune.....No Opposition.

County Clerk.

A. K. Burrell.....No Opposition.

District Attorney.

Thomas J. De Frees.....No Opposition.

Surveyor.

W. F. Beavers.....No Opposition.

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George Gale.....279—34

W. Knowlton.....245

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1857.

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Alexander W. Randall.....549—104

James B. Cross.....445

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President.

John C. Fremont, (Majority).....387

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C. C. Washburn, (Majority).....387

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William T. Pierce, (Majority).....347

Assemblyman.

Buel E. Hutchinson, (Majority).....383

Surveyor, (To fill Vacancy.)

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Governor.

Alexander W. Randall.....549—104

James B. Cross.....445

Lieutenant Governor.

Carl Schurtz.....539—91

Erosmus Campbell.....448

Secretary of State.

John L. V. Thomas.....528—63

David W. Jones.....465

State Treasurer

Samuel D. Hastings.....549—104

Carl Habich.....445

Attorney General.

Mortimer M. Jackson.....554—136

Gabiel Bouck.....418

State Superintendent.

John G. McMynn.....546—102

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State Senator.

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James R. Savage.....461

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John R. Casson.....507—25

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County Clerk.

Samuel McKitrick.....576—201

William F. White.....375

District Attorney.

R. C. Bierce.....563—171

William H. Austin.....392

Sheriff.

William P. Clark.....386—111

Hugh McDill.....275

A. R. Burrell.....234

Scattering.....90

Register of Deeds.

Daniel P. Allison.....324—50

William F. Terhune.....274

Treasurer.

John Gardner.....370—120

W. F. White.....250

Surveyor.

Greene Spurrier.....514—42

James Brown.....472

Coroner.

J. M. Rusk.....500—48
Mark.....452

ELECTION, APRIL, 1858.

County Judge.

James E. Newell.....No Opposition

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1858.

Congressman.

C. C. Washburn.....434—239
Judge Dunn.....195

Assemblyman.

T. W. Tower.....421—246
Huffman.....175

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 1859.

Governor.

Alexander W. Randall.....995—376
Harrison C. Hobart.....619

Lieutenant Governor.

Alexander S. Palmer.....991—359
Butler G. Noble.....632

Secretary of State.

Louis P. Harvey.....997—328
Marvin B. Alden.....619

State Treasurer.

Samuel D. Hasting.....970—354
Lion Silverman.....636

Attorney General.

Samuel Crawford.....635
James Howe.....989—344

State Superintendent.

Josiah Pickard.....968—316
Lyman C. Draper.....652

Bank Comptroller.

Gysbert Van Steenwick.....975—329
Joel C. Squires.....646

Prison Commissioner.

Hans C. Heg.....988—355
Henry C. Fleck.....633

Assemblyman.

William C. McMichael.....989—375
Daniel D Barnard.....614

State Senator.

B. E. Hutchinson.....946—275
W. H. Tucker.....671

County Treasurer.

James Lamsie.....997—526
R. S. Riley.....471
Thomas Fretwell.....105
William T. McConnell.....14

Sheriff.

William Goode.....991—374
S. McKitrick.....617
P. Curtis.....7

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

J. M. Bennett.....957—297
Thomas B. Brown.....660
J. B. Brown.....1

Clerk of the Court.

W. S. Purdy.....938—260
B. F. Hartshorn.....678
J. M. McCes.....1

Register of Deeds.

D. P. Allison.....901—20
William Terhune.....701

District Attorney.

C. M. Butts.....962—454
R. C. Bierce.....508
H. W. McAlley.....25

County Surveyor.

L. Joseph.....969—334
A. A. Baldwin.....635

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1860.

President.

Abraham Lincoln.....1145—670
Stephen A. Douglas.....465
John C. Breckenridge.....22

Congressman.

Luther Hanchet.....1126—615
James D. Ramert.....511

Assemblyman.

D. H. Johnson.....1111—612
O. B. Thomas.....499

Chief Justice Supreme Court.

A. Scott Sloan.....697—198
Luther S. Dixon.....497

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1861.

Governor.

Louis P. Harvey.....976—699
Furgeson.....277

Lieutenant Governor.

Edward Soloman.....968—682
Billings.....286

Secretary of State.

James T. Lewis.....947—650
Benton.....297

State Treasurer.

Samuel D. Hastings.....970—686
Miller.....284

Attorney General.

James H. Howe.....968—682
Horton.....286

State Superintendent.

J. L. Pickard.....970—686
Winslow.....284

Bank Comptroller.

W. H. Ramsey.....937—652
Vollmer.....285

Prison Commissioner.

Hodges.....970—688
Crilly.....282

State Senator.

C. M. Butt.....653—79
Cate.....574

Assemblyman. (1st District).

Ole Johnson.....366—141
William McConnell.....225

(2d District).

J. M. Rusk.....361—113
Searing.....248

Sheriff.

Lewis Sterling.....650—112
W. H. Officer.....538

Clerk of the Court.
William S. Purdy....785—375
Vandwall....410

County Treasurer.
James Lowrie....826—473
Nickler....353

Register of Deeds.
William S. S. White....670—44
Nuzeman....576

District Attorney.
W. F. Terhune....655—121
N. M. Layne....534

Surveyor.
Samuel Joseph....746- 307
Adams....439

Coroner.
C. W. Pitcher....709—236
Herick....473

School Superintendent.
L. L. Radcliff....636—103
Irish....533

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 1862.

State Senator.
W S. Purdy....892—553
Charles Rodolf....339

Assemblyman.
D. B. Priest....431—201
George Walby....230

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.
John M. Bennett....893—507
Lucius Chase....386

SPECIAL ELECTION, DECEMBER 30, 1862.

Congressman, (2d District).
Walter D. McIndoe....770—337
N. S. Ferris....433

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1863.

Governor.
James T. Lewis....1155—795
Henry L. Palmer....360

Lieutenant-Governor.
Wyman Spooner....1163—812
Nelson Dewey....351

Secretary of State.
Lucius Fairchild....1165—817
Emil Rothe....348

State Treasurer.
Samuel D. Hastings....1165—814
Charles S. Benton....351

Attorney-General.
Winfield Smith....1163—811
Eleazer Wakeley....352

State Superintendent.
Josiah Pickard....1166—815
Volney French....351

Bank Comptroller.
William H. Ramsey....1165—814
Henry S. Pierpont....351

Prison Commissioner.
Henry Cardier....1163—812
John R. Bohan....351

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)
William H. Officer....No opposition

(2d District.)
Albert Bliss....No opposition

State Senator.
William Ketchum....1164-1160
Scattering....4

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
Luther S. Dixon....1071—588
Montgomery M. Cothren....483

Soldier's Vote.

State Senator.
W. Ketchum....122

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)
W. H. Officer....10

(2d District.)
Albert Bliss....37—36
Robert Bliss....1
W. H. Officer....1

County Supervisor.
(District No. 1.)
Charles Learing....19—18
T. L. Lindley....1

(District No. 2.)
C. G. Allen....27—25
Alexander Latshaw....2

(District No. 3.)
John Michelet....12

School Superintendent.
Hartwell Allen....78—66
J. C. Kurtz....12

Sheriff.
C. E. Rogers....63—62
Samuel Henry....1

Register of Deeds.
William S. S. White....78

County Treasurer.
James Lowrie....80

District Attorney.
D. B. Priest....80

Surveyor.
Lemuel Joseph....80

Coroner.
E. W. Pickerill....76

Clerk of the Circuit Court.
William S. Purdy....80

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 1864.

President.
Abraham Lincoln....1336—885
George B. McClellen....451

Congressman.
Walter D. McIndoe....1329—871
Henry Reed....458

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)
William H. Officer....668—473
James R. Savage....195

(2d District.)
James Berry....642—372
James A. Cook....270

State Superintendent.
ohn G. McMynn....1242—785
John B. Parkinson....457

ELECTION, April 4, 1865.

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Jason Downer....1268

County Judge.

Carson Graham.... 710—158
Royal C. Bierce.... 552

Soldier's Vote.

Carson Graham.... 65—56
Royal C. Bierce.... 9
Scattering.... 4

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 1865.

Governor.

Lucius Fairchild....1164—1044
Harrison C. Hobert.... 120

Lieutenant Governor.

Wyman Spooner....1190—1098
Densmore W. Maxon.... 92

Secretary of State.

Thomas S. Allen....1192—1099
Levi B. Vilas.... 93

State Treasurer.

William E. Smith....1184—1085
John W. Davis.... 99

Attorney General.

Charles R. Gill.... 1176—1071
Milton Montgomery.... 105

State Superintendent.

John G. McMynn....1201—1112
John G. Parkinson.... 89

Bank Comptroller.

J. M. Rusk....1146—1055
Thomas McMahon.... 91

Prison Commissioner.

Conrad Horneffer.... 90

State Senator.

Benjamin Bull....No Opposition.

Assemblyman.

(District No. 1.)

Carpenter.... 395—252
G. D. McDill.... 143

(District No. 2.)

A. Woods.... 654

Clerk of the Court.

W. S. Purdy....1055—872
W. G. Davis.... 183
John R. Casson.... 23

Sheriff.

R. S. McMichael....1236—33
James O. Burrell....1203
W. W. Lowrie.... 32

Register of Deeds.

W. S. White....1067—879
G. Griffin.... 188
Peter Hecton.... 6

District Attorney.

D. B. Priest....1035—812
J. E. Newell.... 223

County Treasurer.

James Lowerie....1018—778
E. M. Rogers.... 240

County Surveyor.

B. S. Moore.... 1162—1136
Scattering.... 26

Coroner.

H. A. Robinson.... 801—607
E. Minshall.... 194

Superintendent of Schools.

Hartwell Allen....1257—1251
William F. Terhune.... 6

Supervisors.

(District No 1.)

J. J. Durol.... 442

(District No. 2.)

Hugh McDill.... 460—415
Scattering.... 45

(District No. 3.)

John Michelet.... 284

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

Congressman.

C. C. Washburn....1233—995
G. L. Parks.... 238

Banking Law.

For Amendment.... 949—843
Against Amendment.... 106

Constitutional Convention.

Against.... 925—809
For.... 116

Assemblyman.

(District No. 1.)

John W. Greenman.... 529—436
Henry W. McAuley.... 93

(District No. 2.)

Albert Bliss.... 691—563
Timothy S. Paul.... 128

State Senator.

Justin W. Raney....1231—991
John C. Kurtz.... 240

County Treasurer.

C. M. Butt....1229—1007
Joseph Norris.... 222

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

John R. Casson....1246—1041
Jesse L. Davis.... 205

Supervisor 1st District.

C. N. Lawton.... 407—317
Edward Klopffeiseh.... 90

Supervisor 2d District.

John Michelet.... 362—343
J. M. Conaway.... 19

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 2, 1867.

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Orsmas Cole.... 1228—119
I. C. Witherby.... 29

ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 1867.

Governor.

Lucian Fairchild....1443—1059
John J. Talmage.... 384

Lieutenant Governor.

Wyman Spooner....1446—1062
Gilbert Park.... 384

Secretary of State.

Thomas S. Allen....1440—1055
Ernst Roth.... 385

State Treasurer.

William E. Smith.... 1445—1060
Peter Rupp.... 385

Attorney General.
Charles R. Gill....1445—1060
Lucius P. Westerby.... 385
State Superintendent.
Alexander J. Craig....1446—1063
William Peck.... 383
Bank Comptroller.
Jeremiah Rusk....1440—1071
Richard J. Harvey.... 369
Prison Commissioner
Henry Cordier....1455—1085
Ole Heg.... 370
Assemblyman.
(First District.)
Henry Chase.... 456—200
W. H. Officer.... 256
Assemblyman.
(2d District.)
D. B. Priest.... .882
County Treasurer.
C. M. Butt....1562
Sheriff.
T. B. Brown....1546
Clerk of the Circuit Ceurt.
H. N. Preus....1540
District Attorney.
J. E. Newell....1545
Register of Deeds.
G. W. Griffin....1509
County Superintendent.
T. J. Shear.... 911—183
Hartwell Allen.... 728
Surveyor.
H. C. Joseph....1555
Coroner.
H. A. Robinson....1570
County Poor System.
For.... 862—269
Against.... 593

JUDICIAL ELECTION April 7, 1868.
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
Luther S. Dixon....1561—958
Charles Dunn.... 603
Associate Justice of Supreme Court.
Byron Payne....1565—959
E. Holmes Ellis.... 606
Judge of the Circuit Court.
Romanzo Bunn....1130—371
Milton Montgomery.... 759
Edwin Flint.... 283

ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 1868.
President.
U. S. Grant....2248—1627
Horatio Seymour.... 621
Congressman.
C. C. Washburn....2240—1615
A. G. Ellis.... 625
Banking Law.
For....1987—1912
Against.... 75
State Senator.
C. M. Butt....2221—1624
James H. Lambert.... 597
Assemblyman.
(1st District.)
John McLees.... 684—233
H. Allen.... 451
Assemblyman.
(2d District)
Van S. Bennett.... 764
County Supervisor.
(District No. 1.)
B. H. Harry.... 764
County Supervisor.
(District No. 3.)
G. W. Swain.... 762

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 6, 1869.
Justice of the Supreme Court.
Luther S. Dixon....1682—1654
S. W. Pitts.... 28
County Judge.
William S. Purdy....1587—1466
Hugh McDill.... 121

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 2, 1869.
Governor.
Lucius Fairchild....1426—1128
Charles D. Robinson.... 298
Lieutenant Governor.
Thaddeus Pond....1434—1142
Hamilton S. Gray.... 292
Secretary of State.
S. Breese....1390—1095
Amasa G. Cook.... 295
State Treasurer.
Henry Baitz....1434—1142
John Black.... 292
Attorney General.
S. S. Barlow....1435—1143
S. W. Pinny.... 292
State Superintendent.
A. J. Craig....1432—1140
P. K. Gannon.... 292
Prison Commissioner.
George F. Wheeler....1434—1141
Carl Bordoe.... 293
Assemblyman.
(1st District.)
R. May.... 601—530
D. A. Steele.... 71
Assemblyman.
(2d District.)
Van S. Bennett.... 921
County Superintendent.
J. N. Wright....1092—542
George W. Nuzum.... 550
County Supervisor.
(2d District.)
Willard Morley.... 381—128
J. C. Davis.... 253
County Treasurer.
J. W. Allen....1148—669
William Frazier.... 479
Sheriff.
W. W. Lowrie.... 1196—727
R. S. McMichael.... 469

County Surveyor.

Isaac F. Tharp....1237—836
H. C. Joseph.... 401

Coroner.

H. D. Williams....1637—1636
Scattering.... 1

District Attorney.

Carson Graham....1032—413
J. E. Newell.... 619
Scattering.... 3

Register of Deeds.

H. N. Preus.... 890—133
C. H. Ballsrud.... 757
Scattering.... 6

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

P. J. Layne....1273—887
John Harding.... 386

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

John R. Casson....1664—1663
Scattering.... 1

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 1870.

Congressman.

J. M. Rusk....1347—1132
Alexander Meggett.... 215
Scattering.... 6

State Superintendent.

Samuel Fallows....1329—1095
H. B. Dale.... 234

Constitutional Amendment.

Against....1303—1235
For.... 68

State Senator.

Angus Cameron....1298—998
William McConnell.... 300

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

J. W. Hoyt.... 365—40
Ruben May.... 325
John T. Brinkmann.... 173

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

H. A Chase.... 706—704
Scattering.... 2

Sheriff.

Nathan Coe....1594—1592
Scattering.... 2

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 4, 1871.

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.
(To fill Vacancy.)

W. P. Lyon....1599—1396
D. J. Puling.... 203

(To fill full term.)

W. P. Lyon....1641—1416
D. J. Puling.... 225

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 1871.

Governor.

C. C. Washburn....1686—1270
J. R. Doolittle.... 416

Lieutenant Governor.

M. H. Pettit....1669—1240
John A. Rice.... 429

Secretary of State.

L. Breese....1682—1257
Milton Montgomery.... 425

State Treasurer.

Henry Baitz....1698—1289
Anton Klaus.... 409

Attorney General.

S. S. Barlow....1684—1439
Edward S. Bragg.... 245
W. F. Vilas.... 170

State Superintendent.

S. Fallows....1684—1259
W. D. Parker.... 425

Prison Commissioner.

George F. Wheeler....1688—1275
Louis S. Johnson.... 413

Commissioner of Immigration.

Ole C. Johnson....1700—1295
Jacob Badden.... 405

State Senator.

William Nelson....1598—1102
T. C. Ankrey.... 496

Assemblyman, (1st District).

R. May....592—538
C. C. Olson.... 54

(2d District).

H. A. Chase....736—521
A. Bliss....215

County Superintendent

Hartwell Allen....1966—1907
Scattering.... 59

County Treasurer.

J. W. Allen....1686—1293
W. T. McConnell.... 393

District Attorney.

C. M. Butt....2084—2083
Scattering.... 1

County Clerk.

John R. Casson....2104

Clerk of the Courts.

P. I. Layne....2078

County Surveyor.

B. S. Moore....544—36
J. F. Tharp....508

Coroner.

H. D. Williams....2077—2073
Scattering.... 4

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5, 1872.

President.

U. S. Grant....2445—1903
Horace Greeley, Lib.... 542
Charles O'Connor, Dem.... 7

Congressman,

J. M. Rusk....2567—2124
S. Marston.... 443

Assemblyman, (1st District).

Peter Jerman....1089—632
William Clawater.... 457

(2d District).

J. Henry Tate....802—177
Robert Sandon....625

Sheriff.

T. B. Brown.....2109—1210
H. H. Furgeson..... 899

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 1, 1873.

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Orsamas Cole.....2445

County Judge.

J. E. Newell.....1240—23
William S. Purdy.....1217

GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 1873.

Governor.

C. C. Washburn.....1706—1159
William R. Taylor..... 547

Lieutenant Governor.

Robert H. Baker.....1597—954
Charles D. Parker..... 643

Secretary of State.

E. W. Young.....1702—1159
Peter Doyle..... 543

State Treasurer.

Ole C. Johnson.....1700—1153
Ferdinand Kuehn..... 547

Attorney General.

Leander Frisby.....1700—1152
A. Scott Stoane..... 548

State Superintendent.

Robert Graham.....1700—1153
Edward Seaving..... 547

Commissioner of Immigration.

George P. Lindman .....1690—1159
M. S. Argard..... 531

State Senator.

A. E. Bleckman.....2150—2103
J. H. Reep..... 47

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

William Frazier.....1144

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

Edgar Eno..... 774—538
D. W. Adams..... 236

County Superintendent.

O. B. Wyman.....2179

County Treasurer.

John W. Greenman.....1307—432
William McConnell..... 875

County Surveyor.

J. F. Tharp.....2204

Coroner.

C. E. Morley.....2190—2186
Scattering..... 4

District Attorney.

C. M. Butt.....2106—2095
Scattering..... 11

Register of Deeds.

Edward Lind.....1435—678
W. S. S. White..... 757

Clerk of the Court.

P. J. Layne.....2143

County Clerk.

John R. Casson.....2140

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 7, 1874.

Judge of the Circuit Court.

Romanzo Bunn.....2272—2256
Scattering..... 16

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1874.

Congressman.

J. M. Rusk.....1916—1362
David C. Fulton..... 654

Assemblyman.
(District No. 1.)

Ole Anderson..... 807—331
Hartwell Allen..... 476

Assemblyman.
(District No. 2.)

James E. Newell..... 743—243
W. W. Joseph..... 500

Sheriff.

Alexander Lowrie.....1774—1031
G. J. Thomas..... 743
R. F. Lemen..... 41

JUDICIAL ELECTION, APRIL 6, 1875.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

James E. Newell*..... 165

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 2, 1875.

Governor.

Harrison Luddington.....1784—1088
William R. Taylor..... 696

Lieutenant Governor.

Henry L. Eaton.....1797—1112
Charles D. Parker..... 685

Secretary of State.

Hans B. Warner.....1797—1114
Peter Doyle..... 683

State Treasurer.

Henry Baitz .....1800—1217
Ferdinand Kuehn 683

Attorney General.

John R. Bennett.....1801—1119
A. Scott Sloan..... 682

State Superintendent.

Robert Graham.....1795—1108
Edward Searing..... 687

State Senator.

Reuben May ..... 1193—41
J. Henry Tate.....1152
Scattering..... 5

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

John Stevenson..... 633—120
J. F. Tharp..... 513

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

T. S. Jordan.....1282

Register of Deeds.

Edward Lind.....1804—1194
John S. Dixon..... 610

County Treasurer.

Ole Johnson.....2451—2449
Scattering 2

District Attorney.

H. P. Proctor.....1880—1352
C. M. Butt..... 528
Scattering..... 14

County Clerk.

John R. Casson.....2455

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

P. J. Layne.....2450

Surveyor.

Egbert Wyman.....2449—2447
Scattering..... 2

Coroner.

B. J. Castle.....2079—2059
Scattering..... 20

Superintendent of Schools.

O. B. Wyman.....2456—2453
Scattering..... 3

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 1876.

President.

Rutherford B. Hayes.....2764—1647
Samuel Tilden, Dem.....1117
Peter Cooper, Gr..... 110

Congressman.

H. L. Humphry.....2416—1494
Martin R. Gage..... 932
R. May..... 635

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

Peter J. Dale.....1017—295
Fred Eckhart..... 722
John Michelet..... 200

(2d District)

H. H. Wyatt.....1260—501
A. W. De Jean..... 759
Scattering..... 3

Sheriff.

C. E. Morley.....2688—1451
R. H. Buchanan.....1237

ELECTION, APRIL 3, 1877.
Associate Justice of Supreme Court.

William P. Lyon.....2557—2548
Scattering..... 9

County Judge.

C. M. Butt.....2542—2520
Scattering..... 22

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 1877.
Goveruor.

W. E. Smith.....1678—832
Edward P. Allis..... 846
James A. Malory..... 416
Scattering..... 2

Lieutenant-Governor.

James M. Bingham.....1681—840
E. H. Burton..... 841
Romanzo Davis..... 470

Secretary of State.

Hans B. Warner.....1730—938
Joseph H. Osborn..... 793
James B. Hayes..... 419

State Treasurer.

Richard Guenther.....1722—921
William Schwartz..... 801
John Ringle..... 419

Attorney-General.

Alexander Wilson.....1611—847
Henry Hayden..... 764
J. M. Morrow..... 570

State Superintendent.

W. C. Whitford.....1692—944
George M. Steele..... 758
Edward Searing..... 479

Amendment of Constitution.

For.....1411—1305
Against..... 106

State Senator.

George W. Swain.....1804—828
A. D. Chase..... 1076

Allemblyman.
(1st Dtstrict.)

Chris Ellefson.....829—139
F. K. Van Wagoner.....690

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

Allen Rusk.....800—240
Marion Henry.....560

Register of Deeds.

C. C. Olson.....1521—165
C. H. Ballsrud.....1356
Scattering..... 6

County Treasurer.

Ole Johnson..... 1911—1034
Lenord Mosley..... 977

District Attorney.

H.P.Proctor.....1707—525
Carson Graham.....1155

County Clerk.

John R. Carson.....1981—1059
Isaiah Glenn..... 922

Clerk of Circuit Court.

P. J. Layne.....2052—2050
Scattering..... 2

Surveyor.

W. H. Knower.....1691—484
I. J. Tharp.....1207

Coroner.

H. C. Gosling.....1671—602
W. W. Dunlap.....1069

Superintendent of Schools.

O. B. Wyman.....1683—470
Hartwell Allen..... 1213
Scattering..... 4

ELECTION, APRIL, 1878.
Associate Justice (full term).

Harlow S. Orton.....1435—1430
Scattering..... 5

Associate Justice (to fill vacancy).

David Taylor..... 1450—1349
Scattering..... 1

ELECTION, November 5, 1878.
Congressman.

Charles D. Parker.....1718
Herman L. Humphry.....1718

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

Jacob Eckhart.....939—125
Chris Ellefson.....804
Scattering..... 1

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

Roger Williams ..... 919—129
James A. Cook 790

Sheriff.

James H. Hewey ..... 1908—346
William Frazier 1562

ELECTION APRIL, 1879.
Associate Justice of Supreme Court.

Orsamus Cole ..... 2133—1327
Montgomery M. Cothren 806
Scattering 10

ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 1879.

Governor.

William E. Smith ..... 2092—1385
Reuben May 707
James G. Jenkins 377

Lieutenant Governor.

James M. Bingham ..... 2104—1411
William L. Utley 693
George H. King 382

Secretary of State.

Hans B. Warner ..... 2108—1418
George W Lee 690
Samuel Ryan 380

State Treasurer.

Richard Guenther ..... 2109—1420
Peter A. Griffith 689
Andrew Haven 380

Attorney General.

Alexander Wilson ..... 2109—1419
Edward G. Nye 690
J. Montgomery Smith 380

State Superintendent.

William C. Whitford ..... 2098—1416
William H. Searles 682
Edward Searing 398

State Senator.

O. B. Thomas ..... 1999—1219
P. N. Peterson 780
W. N. Carter 394
Scattering 1

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

J. Eckert ..... 944—417
P. J. Dale 527
E. Schilling 93
Scattering 7

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

D. C. Yakey ..... 977—590
G. W. Gregory 387
H. O'Connell 199
Scattering 38

Register of Deeds.

J. W. Curry ..... 1680—386
C. C. Olson 1294
W. T. McConnell 192
Scattering 8

County Treasurer.

Ole Johnson ..... 2239—1501
J. Conway 728
Calvin Morley 195
Scattering 2

District Attorney.

H. P. Proctor ..... 2029—1073
C. W. Groves 956
Scattering 6

County Clerk.

J. R. Casson ..... 2308—1496
Joseph Harris 812

Clerk of Circuit Court.

P. J. Layne ..... 2308—1496
W. McClaren 812

Superintendent of Schools.

William Haughton ..... 2333—1510
H. A. Bemis 823
Scattering 4

Surveyor.

William H. Knower ..... 2139—1108
J. F. Tharp 1031
Scattering 2

Coroner

C. E. Morley ..... 2170—1171
Robert Wilson 999
Scattering 3

ELECTION NOVEMBER 2 1880.

President.

James A. Garfield (Rep) ..... 2774—1760
Winfield S. Hancock (Dem) 1014
James B. Weaver (Gb) 525
Neal Dow (Pro.) 3

Congressman.

Herman L. Humphrey ..... 2770—1762
G. Y. Freeman 1008
Joel Foster 532

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

T. O. Juve, ... 1618—1592
Scattering 26

Assemblyman,
(2d District.)

Allen Rusk ..... 1309—326
C. B. Siebins 983

Sheriff.

Frank Wallar ..... 2236—174
Michael Rents 2062

ELECTION, APRIL 5, 1881.

Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

Orsamus Cole (to fill vacancy) ..... 2616—2115
G. W. Cate 1

Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

Orsamus Cole (full term) ..... 2116—2115
G. W. Cate 1

Associate Justice.

John B. Cassacy ..... 2616—2615
M. M. Cothren 1

County Judge.

C. M. Butt ..... 2501—2437
N. E. Newell 64
G. D. Wallar 23
Scattering .....

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 1881.

Governor.

Jeremiah Rusk	2022—1664
Michael Fratt	358
Edward P. Allis	326
T. G. Kanouse	153
Scattering	5

Lieutenant Governor.

S. S. Fifield	1994—1581
Wendall A. Anderson	413
David Giddings	336
Harvey S. Clapp	134
M. Johnson	1

Secretary of State.

Ernest G. Timmie	1739—1041
Michael Johnson	698
Wilson Hopkins	312
Edmond Bartlett	126

State Treasurer.

Edward C. McFetridge	2003—1593
Frank R. Falk	410
Gerhart Lammers	335
John J. Sutton	126

Attorney General.

Leander F. Frisby	2002—1589
Melanthon Briggs	413
Joel Foster	335
E. J. Comstock	125

State Superintendent.

Robert Graham	2330—2193
J. A. Gaynor	337
N. N. Brickson	1

Railroad Commissioners.

Nills P. Hangen	2011—1604
Ambrose Hoffman	407
T. G. Brunson	333
John Nader	119
T. O. Juve	2

Commissioner of Insurance.

Philip L. Spooner	2008
Louis Kemper	412
Lorenzo Merrill	337
Thomas Bracken	116
Chris Ellefson	1

State Senator.

Van S. Bennett	2166—447
Chris Ellefson	1719
J. A. Robb	603
Scattering	7

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

T. O. Juve	782—225
Henry Schlong	557
Scattering	7

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

T. J. Shear	1169—831
J. L. Joseph	308

Register of Deeds.

T. W. Curry	1951—1096
Joseph Omundson	855

County Treasurer.

Ole Johnson	2117—1455
T. M. Vance	662

District Attorney.

O. B. Wyman	2207—2190
Scattering	17

County Clerk.

John R. Casson	2249—2244
Scattering	5

Clerk of Circuit Court.

P. J. Layne	2180—1561
M. Monti	619

Surveyor.

W. H. Knower	2028—1338
J. F. Tharp	690
W. L. Riley	1

Coroner.

Stanly Stout	2170—1546
E. H. Morrison	674
Scattering	2

Superintendent of Schools.

William Haughton	2170—1546
Hartwell Allen	624
Scattering	6

ELECTION, APRIL, 1882.

Judge of Circuit Court

Alfred W. Newman	2173—2157
George G. Wallar	16

ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 1882.

Congressman.

C. M. Butt	2042—996
G. M. Woodward	1046
B. F. Parker	189
R. May	97
Scattering	1

Assemblyman.
(1st District.)

Chris Ellefson	915—287
Henry H. Morgan	628

Assemblyman.
(2d District.)

M. C. Nicholas	668—112
W. N. Carter	556
William Landon	464
J. C. Spellum	153
William McMichael	2
A. McCall	1

Sheriff.

S. R. Pollard	1751—125
G. H. Hewey	1626
Scattering	1

CHAPTER XX.

COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

In this chapter the various county officers are treated of. It is the design to trace the history of each county office, from the organization of the county, in 1851 to 1884, giving in connection sketches of the gentlemen who have filled the various offices.

The records of the elections held in Vernon county, prior to the war, are very meagre and deficient, and of some of the elections there is no record at all. Therefore, if the name of any one who has held a county office is omitted, it is because the omission occurs in the record.

It will be noticed that the election of 1882 is the last one referred to. The reason of this is that the laws of the State have been changed so that the election of county officers will hereafter be held "in even years." There was no election in November, 1883. The officers elected in 1881 hold three years.

TREASURER.

Upon the organization of the county, in April, 1851, James A. Cooke was elected first county treasurer. Mr. Cooke came from Illinois in 1848 or 1849, and settled with his family upon land about two miles east of the village, in the town of Viroqua. He remained there until the time of his death in 1881, and his widow, who survives him, still lives upon the old homestead. Mr. Cooke was a prominent man here. He was a man of integrity and much intelligence; he was a local Methodist preacher, and after working hard all day upon his farm, whenever occasion demanded, would fill appointments in the evening.

In November,1851, John Langley was elected county treasurer; but it seems there was some change in the county affairs at this time; for shortly after, it appears from the records, that Edmund Strang resigned the office of county treasurer, and John Longley was appointed to fill the place. Edmund Strang was a native of the State of New York. He came west in 1848, and settled at Springville, in the town of Jefferson, where he opened a farm. When elected or appointed treasurer, he did not move to the county seat, and it is thought never performed a single official act. He was a genial, pleasant man socially; was well educated for those days, and this made him very popular; in fact, it is said, that the time was when he could have been elected to any office in the county by merely expressing the desire for it. He lived in the town of Jefferson until about 1875, when he moved to Osceola, Neb., where he still lives.

John Longley was really the first to perform the duties of the office of county treasurer. Longley came to Bad Ax county at an early day, and located at Viroqua, where he followed the business of a carpenter and joiner. He was a lively, jovial fellow, and made friends. He left about 1854, and it is thought returned to Illinois. While he was treasurer, there was but little to do. It is said that at one time he carried all the records of his office, including the tax lists, in his pocket, upon sheets of foolscap.

In November, 1853, John Gardner was elected treasurer. He was re-elected in September, 1855, and again in November, 1857, serving in all six years. John Gardner came from Ohio in 1852 and settled in the village of Viroqua with his family. He was a house carpenter and cabinet maker by trade; and an excellent workman. He followed this business until elected to office. After serving his term of office as treasurer he moved to a piece of land two miles southeast of the village and opened a farm.

Several years later he sold his place and removed to Missouri, where he still lives. He was a steady, sober, industrious man, and held the respect of all with whom he came in contact.

In November, 1859, James Lowrie was elected treasurer of Bad Ax county. In 1861, 1863 and 1865 he was re-elected, serving until May, 1866, when he resigned and Col. C. M. Butt was appointed to fill the office. James Lowrie was a brother of the Lowries who held the office of sheriff of the county at different times. He came to the county with the rest of the family in 1855, and located in Springville in the town of Jefferson, where he rented and run the grist mill until elected county treasurer, when he removed to Viroqua. His popularity as an official is evident by the many times he was re-elected. As stated, he resigned in May, 1866, and removed to Monroe county, dying in Sparta several years ago. His widow still survives him. Mr. Lowrie made many friends by his genial, pleasant disposition; he was a prominent man here and his worth was also recognized in Monroe county, where he held some county office.

In May, 1866, C. M. Butts, of Viroqua, was appointed treasurer to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Lowrie. In November, 1866, he was elected to the position, and was re-elected in 1867, serving until Jan. 1, 1870.

J. W. Allen succeeded Col. Butt as county treasurer, being elected in November, 1869, and re-elected in 1871. Mr. Allen was a native of New York; but came to Vernon county from Lake Mills, Jefferson Co., Wis., at an early day and settled at Hillsborough. Here he erected a saw mill and followed the milling business until elected county treasurer, when he removed to Viroqua. While at the county seat he erected what is known as the Proctor & Tollefson block. Subsequently he returned to Hillsborough and engaged at farming, which he continued, with the exception of a short time spent at Odd Fellows work, until the time of his death, which occurred a few years ago. His widow still survives him, living upon the old homestead.

In November, 1873, J. W. Greenman was elected county treasurer and served one term. Mr. Greenman came to what is now Vernon county, from Illinois, and located upon a farm in the town of Genoa. Upon his election to the office he moved to Viroqua. About the time that his term of office expired he received the appointment of deputy United States marshal for Utah, when he moved to Salt Lake City, where he still lives. He still holds that office. Greenman was a prominent man. He had made a good officer in the 8th regiment during the war; was genial, pleasant, capable and intelligent. He was not much of a politician, but he had so many friends, it was easy for him to get into office. He served one term in the Legislature, representing the western district of Vernon county, while Senator Cameron was Speaker of the House, and that gentleman took a strong liking to Greenman, aiding afterward in securing for him the appointment which he now holds.

In November, 1875, Ole Johnson was elected treasurer. Having been re-elected in 1877, 1879 and 1881, he is the present incumbent.

Ole Johnson, who is serving his fourth term as treasurer of Vernon county, resides in the town of Hamburg, where he owns a fine farm of 250 acres. Mr. Johnson was born in Norway, in 1820, and came to the United States when twenty-nine years of age. He resided about a year in Iowa Co., Wis.. and in the fall of 1850, went to La Crosse. In 1855 he settled permanently in the town of Hamburg. He located on section 22, where he has a pleasant home. Mr. Johnson is one of the prominent citizens of Hamburg town, and in the autumn of 1861, was elected to represent this district in the General Assembly of the State, serving one term. His wife is also a native of Norway, and three chil-

dren have been born to them---Henry, Martin and Mary, all natives of Hamburg town.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

The first to fill this office for the county of Bad Ax---now Vernon--- was Jacob Higgins. He was elected upon the organization of the county in April, 1851, and re-elected in November, 1851. Jacob Higgins was among the early settlers in the region of Liberty Pole in the town of Franklin, locating upon a farm where he lived until the time of his death.

In November, 1853, S. C. Lincoln was elected and served one term. He came from New York in 1851, and settled at Viroqua. He had no regular business until elected to office. He made a good register. For a number of years he ran a hotel, and was postmaster at Viroqua, remaining until 1879, when he received the appointment of railroad mail agent on the Northwestern Railroad, which position he still occupies.

In September, 1855, Hon. W. F. Terhune, was elected to succeed Mr. Lincoln. He kept the registers office in his law office.

Daniel P. Allison was elected register in November, 1857, and was re-elected in 1859. Allison came from Illinois and settled at Viroqua, becoming deputy postmaster and retaining that position until elected register. He was only able to do such work as this, on ac count of having one cork leg, which crippled him badly. He remained until the war broke out, when he left, turning up later at Johnsonsburg, Mo. He was a steady, sober fellow, and an excellent scribe.

In November, 1861, W. S. White was elected and being re-elected in 1863 and 1865, served six years. W. S. White came from the State of New York, at an early day, and settled on West Prairie in the town of Sterling. When elected to office, he removed to Viroqua and remained until 1876, when he moved to Hutchinson, Kan., where he still lives. When last heard from, his wife, who was an excellent milliner, was running a store in Hutchinson, while he was doing some kind of railroad work.

G. W. Griffin succeeded Mr. White. He was elected in the fall of 1867, and served one term. G. W. Griffin came to Vernon county with his parents about 1852. When the war broke out he enlisted, and after its close came back "all shot to pieces." He was elected register of deeds, and after serving his term, was re-nominated, but withdrew and went to Madison. Later, he went to Kansas, where it is believed, he was killed by the Indians. His widow is now Mrs. Daniel Wise, of Viroqua.

In November, 1869, H. N. Preus was elected register, and served one term. He was a Norwegian; came here from Madison, and settled upon Coon Prairie. In 1867 he was elected clerk of circuit court, and moved to town, and two years later, was elected register. He is now railway mail agent on the railroad between Viroqua and Sparta, and lives at the latter place.

Edward Lind was elected register in November, 1873, and re-elected in 1875. He was a young Norwegian who had settled in the town of Harmony. When elected to office, he removed to Viroqua, and remained several years when he went to Nebraska where he still lives.

C. C. Oleson, of Viroqua, succeeded Mr. Lind, being elected in November, 1877.

In November, 1879, J. W. Curry was elected register of deeds. In 1881 he was re-elected, and is the present incumbent.

John W. Curry, register of deeds of Vernon county, was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1840. He was reared and educated among the hills of southeastern Ohio, and in 1862, the second year of the civil war, he enlisted in the 86th regiment, Ohio Volunteers, serving three months. In the summer of 1863 he took part in the capture of Morgan's famous brigade, and in the fall of the same year came to Vernon county, and located in the town of Webster. In March, 1865, he enlisted in the 53d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and served till the close of the war. He then returned to Vernon county, and from that period, until 1879, was engaged in farming during the spring and summer seasons,

and in teaching during the winter months. In 1879 he was elected to his present position. Mr. Curry married Harriet Adams, also a native of Morgan Co., Ohio. They have one son—Arthur B.

COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT.

For several years after the organization of the county the offices of county clerk and clerk of the circuit court were merged together and the duties of both offices were performed by one official. Orrin Wisel was the first to fill the offices for Bad Ax county. He was elected in April, 1851. W. F. Terhune was the deputy and did all the business. Orrin Wisel came to Bad Ax county from the eastern part of the State in 1849 and settled at Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin. In 1850 he moved to Viroqua, and here opened a blacksmith shop. Shortly after his term of office expired he went to near Readstown, on the Kickapoo, and there remained—losing his wife meantime—until the war broke out, when he enlisted in a cavalry regiment and went into the service. Upon his return from the army he married his brother's widow, the brother having died in the service. Later he had trouble with his second wife, accusing her of attempting to poison himself and children by his first wife, and he refused to live with her. They parted and he removed to Montana, where, it is reported, he has since died. Like all pioneers Wisel was a hale, jovial, rollicking fellow; but he was rude, uncultured and ignorant. He was an ardent democrat and this fact was the ground upon which he was elected clerk.

In November, 1851, William C. McMichael was elected to succeed Wisel in the two offices. In November, 1853, he was re-elected. Mr. McMichael was born in Richhill, Muskingum Co., Ohio. He removed from Ohio March 4, 1840, and subsequently settled in Mercer Co., Ill., where on the 10th of February, 1842, he was married to Eleanor Graham, daughter of John Graham, afterward of Springville, Vernon county. In the month of October, 1846, he removed to Bad Ax Co., Wis. At the time of his removal, however, all the country north of the Wisconsin river was embraced in Crawford county. About 1851 Mr. McMichael moved to Viroqua and lived there until his death, which occurred Feb. 18, 1861. He was about forty-two years of age at the time of his death. In speaking of Mr. McMichael, the *Northwestern Times*, in its issue of Feb. 20, 1861, said:

"In losing William C. McMichael Bad Ax county has lost one of her oldest and most respected citizens. Having held numerous offices in the county, he in all acquitted himself in such a manner as to build up a reputation for stern integrity. In all his business transactions we have never known him to be accused of dishonesty, and few men have lived more universally respected. His early education was limited, but he had improved his mind and enlarged his understanding by reading, and he took a deep interest in all the questions of the day. Naturally possessed of strong perceptive faculties, he could, perhaps, to a greater extent than most persons, foresee the order of events, and be prepared to meet them. His heart was a benevolent one, and his mantle of charity was broad; and suffering humanity never appealed to him in vain for aid. He was strong in his attachments to his personal friends, but all who approached him were received with kindness of manner, which eminently charactized him. He was always ready to take an active part in whatever concerned the village of Viroqua, or of Bad Ax county, and even the whole State of Wisconsin was embraced in his warm heart. As a professor of religion, as a member of the Church, as a citizen in our community, he occupied a conspicuous position, and all have been accustomed to look to him for advice, counsel and encouragement. To-day the tomb receives him out of our sight. As the clods of the valley fall upon his coffin, we shall feel indeed that we are burying a friend, one in whom we all had an interest. But though a man die, he shall live again, and we will not forget that our

friend expressed confidence that he should sleep in Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life. The wife that is left to mourn, and the five little children that are left fatherless, shall have our sympathy, our aid, and our prayers."

Upon the expiration of William C. McMichael's second term the two offices were divided, and an officer elected to attend to the duties of each separately.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT.

William C. McMichael was elected clerk of the circuit court in September, 1855, and served for two years.

John R. Casson succeeded Mr. McMichael, being elected in November, 1857, and serving a like term. He is the present county clerk.

In November, 1859, W. S. Purdy was elected clerk of the circuit court. In 1861, 1863 and 1865 he was re-elected, serving eight years in all.

H. N. Preus succeeded Mr. Purdy, by the election in November, 1867, and served one term. He afterwards became register of deeds.

In November, 1869, P. J. Layne was elected clerk of the circuit court, and being re-elected in 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879 and 1881, is the present incumbent.

P. J. Layne is the efficient clerk of the circuit court, of Vernon county. He is a son of James H. Layne, who came to Viroqua in the spring of 1854. A personal sketch of this worthy pioneer will be found in this work. P. J. Layne was born in Floyd county in the grand old commonwealth of Kentucky, noted for its fine horses, beautiful women and large quantity and excellent quality of its whiskey. He was but eight years of age when his parents removed to Wisconsin, and he was mostly reared and educated in his adopted county. When a young man, he was elected town clerk, and served as such a number of terms. In the fall of 1869, he was elected clerk of courts of Vernon county, and his long continuance in this position is satisfactory evidence of his ability and faithfulness as a county officer. In 1872 Mr Layne married Alice Gordon, born in Grant Co., Wis., and daughter of John H. Gordon, who was one of the pioneers of Grant county, but now deceased. Mrs. Layne bore her husband two children, and departed this life in 1868. His present wife was Alvira Meade, a native of Waukesha, Wis., and daughter of Henry Meade. She is the mother of one child. Mr. Layne is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for years has been an active temperance worker.

COUNTY CLERK OR CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,

Upon the division of the offices of county clerk and clerk of the circuit court in September, 1855, A. K. Burrell was elected to the office of county clerk. Mr. Burrell came from New York in 1852 and settled upon a piece of school land in the town of Viroqua, south of the village. He tried to farm but soon gave it up and moved to the village. After serving his term of office he was deputy sheriff for some time; then went into the office of Graham & Terhune to read law, and was elected and served one term as justice of the peace. In 1875 he went to Kansas where he again tried farming but soon gave it up and is now in the grocery trade at Hutchinson.

Samuel McKitrick was elected county clerk in November, 1857, and served two years. Samuel McKitrick came from Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1856 and settled with his family in the village of Viroqua. He was a carpenter and builder. He lost his first wife, and married his second wife in Viroqua, remaining until about 1861 when he went to La Crosse and there followed his trade. Subsequently he returned to Vernon county and settled at Readstown, where he started a little steam saw mill. He has since moved west.

John M. Bennett was elected county clerk in November, 1859, and being re elected several times served until Jan. 1, 1867. John M. Bennett, now of Viroqua, settled in the town of Hillsborough in 1856. He was born at Stockbridge, Windsor Co., Vt., where he lived until he settled in Vernon county. Mr. Bennett was

brought up on a farm also teaching school while a young man. He was a member of the Vernon Legislature in 1858–9. He has lived in Vernon county since 1856, except two seasons spent in Minnesota and two years spent in Juneau Co., Wis. His wife's maiden name was Lucia Thomas, she was born in Franklin Co., Vt. They have four children: Harriet, wife of William Mutch; Mrs Cornelia Williams; William T., of Hastings, Minn., and J. M. Jr., of Dakota territory.

In November, 1866, John R. Casson was elected county clerk. He has been re-elected seven times—in 1869, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879 and 1881, and is the present incumbent, having served the county a greater number of years than any other man who has ever held office here.

John R. Casson was first elected county clerk in November, 1866, and has served continuously in that capacity since Jan. 1, 1867. Mr. Casson was born in Albany, N. Y., March 2, 1833. His parents, Henry and Mary Casson, removed with their family to Brownsville, Penn., in the summer of 1833, and in 1848 again sought a new home, this time in the "far west." They located at Hennepin, Putnam Co., Ill., where the father, brother and sister still live; the mother died in 1872. When thirteen years of age Mr. Casson obtained employment as a clerk, and was engaged alternately in clerking and attending school for some years. He finally went to Freeport, Ill., and a short time after, in December, 1854, came to Viroqua. He was employed as a clerk until August, 1862, when he enlisted in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Upon the organization of the company, Mr. Casson was made 2d sergeant; was promoted to a 2d lieutenantcy Sept. 13, 1862; elected as 1st lieutenant, Jan. 20, 1864, and chosen as captain of his company April 11, 1865. He participated in all the skirmishes and battles of "the 25th," "and with Sherman marched down to the sea." He formed one in that glorious review of western troops at Washington, at the close of the rebellion, and was mustered out of service June 7, 1865. He returned to Vernon county, and was in the employ of J. H. Tate, as a clerk, from September, 1865, till December, 1866. In the fall of the latter year he was elected to his present position, and his character and actions as a citizen, a soldier, and a public official, have won for him the confidence and esteem of the community and the county at large. Mr. Casson married Lydia A., daughter of Dr. E. W. Tinker, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. They are the parents of four children —Harry I., a clerk in the pension department of the United States, at Washington, D. C.; Lulu E., wife of A. W. Campbell, of the law firm of Harris & Campbell, Aberdeen, Dak.; William E. and John E.—all natives of Viroqua.

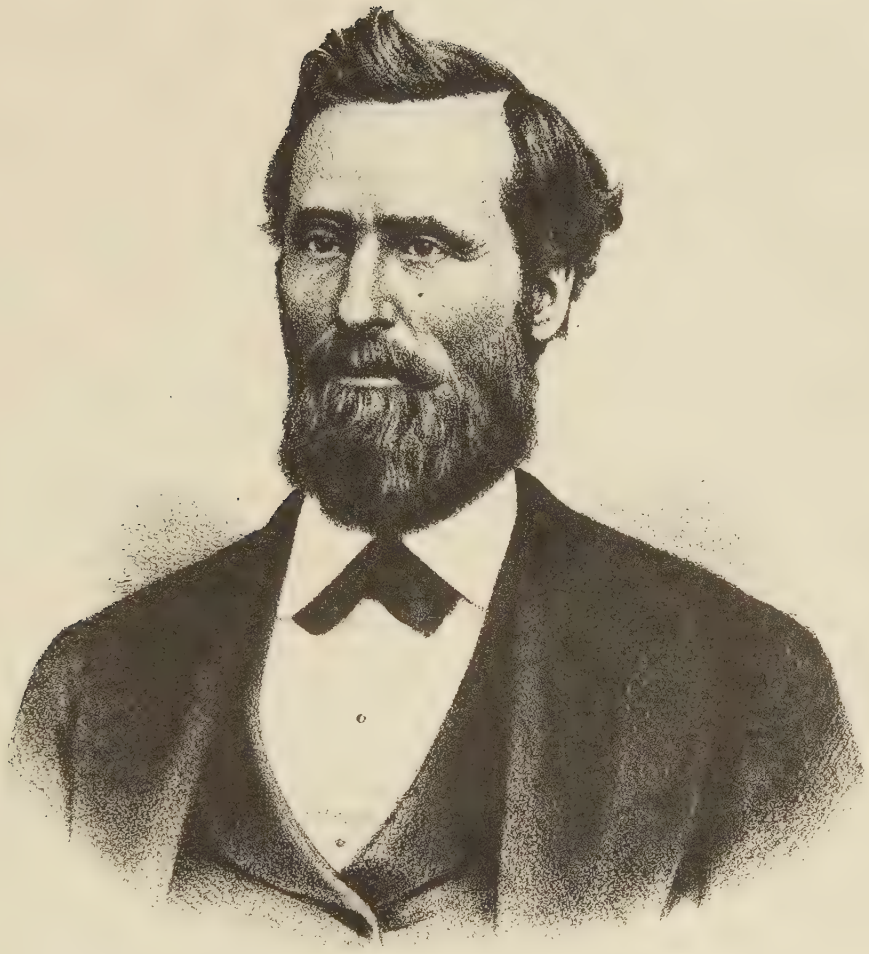
SHERIFF.

Rufus Gillett was the first sheriff of the county, being elected in April, 1851. Rufus Gillett came from Illinois, in 1847, and settled upon a farm in township 13, range 4, now the town of Viroqua. He remained upon the place until the time of his death, a few years ago, and his widow still survives him. Mr. Gillett was a man of sterling worth and integrity. He held the respect of all who knew him.

James M. Bailey was elected sheriff in November, 1851, and re-elected in November, 1853. Bailey was a Kentuckian by birth, but came to Bad Ax county, from Grant Co., Wis., where he had been engaged at mining. He settled upon land on West Prairie, which is now included in the town of Sterling. About 1873 he removed to near Victory, in the town of Wheatland, where he still lives.

In September, 1855, Jeremiah M. Rusk was elected sheriff and served for two years. He is the present governor of Wisconsin.

William P. Clark succeeded J. M. Rusk as sheriff, being elected in November, 1857. Clark was a relative of, and came from the same place as did J. M. Bailey. He, also, settled



R. B. Hayes

upon West Prairie, and remained until about the time the war broke out, when he removed to Victory. In 1882 he went to Tomah, Wis., where he still lives.

By the November election, 1859, William Goode succeeded Mr. Clark. Goode was a native of Kentucky. He came to Bad Ax county from Illinois, in 1852, and located upon land in township 13, range 5 west. He was a single man at the time, but married within a few years. Several years later he bought the old Decker place, which was the original site of the village, and moved to Viroqua. He remained in Viroqua until a short time before the war broke out, when he removed to Melvina, Monroe county, where he still lives. Goode was a prominent man in early days, and held various offices of trust.

Lewis Sterling was elected sheriff in November, 1861, and served two years. Mr. Sterling was also a Kentuckian, and one of the earliest pioneers of western Wisconsin. He located upon a piece of land on West Prairie, now included in the town of Sterling, which town was named after the family of that name. Lewis Sterling remained upon the land which he first selected until after the close of the war, when he sold out and removed to Cass Co., Mo., where he still lives. He was a man of a great deal more than ordinary ability and intelligence. In fact, in pioneer days, he was among the most prominent men in the county.

C. E. Rogers was elected sheriff in November, 1863. Mr. Rogers was born in Wayne Co., Penn., in 1834. In 1840 he came west to Wisconsin and settled at Ontario, now in Vernon county, where he was subsequently engaged in milling. When the war broke out he enlisted in company I, 6th Wisconsin regiment, and became lieutenant, serving as aid to Gen. Wadsworth. In the summer of 1863, he resigned, came home and was elected sheriff. He soon abandoned the office, raised a company for the 50th regiment, and went into the service as captain. In 1866 he was mustered out and settled at Monomonee, Wis. He now lives at Chippewa Falls, where he is foreman for the Mississippi Valley Lumber Company. C. E. Rogers was married in 1856 to Emily Tuttle. They have seven children.

In November, 1865, Capt. R. S. McMichael was elected sheriff and served for two years. He is the present postmaster at Viroqua, and is noticed elsewhere at length.

T. B. Brown succeeded Capt. McMichael as sheriff, being elected in November, 1867. Mr. Brown came from Ohio in 1854 and settled upon a farm in what is now the town of Greenwood, Vernon county. Subsequently he moved to Viroqua, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred in 1881. Mr. Brown was among the most respected of old settlers. He was a prominent man; ran the postoffice during the war, and served as sheriff of the county more years than any other man who has ever filled the office.

In November, 1869, W. W. Lowrie was elected sheriff. W. W. Lowrie came from the State of New York, and in 1855 located upon a piece of land in the town of Jefferson, Vernon county. He was a single man at the time, but later married Mrs. Shaw. When he was elected to office he moved to town, where his home remained until the time of his death, which occurred while he was at LaCrosse, Sept. 19, 1870. His disease was contracted while he was in the army. He had a gallant soldier's record. He was in the Chicago board of trade battery. At Shiloh he was the only man who stayed uninjured with the guns, and with the repulse of the enemy, he arose, and without any help loaded a cannon and sent a shot flying after the rebels.

Upon the death of Mr. Lowrie, deputy sheriff Nathan Coe, of Viroqua, became sheriff ex-officio until the November election, 1870, when he was elected for the balance of the term.

In November, 1871, T B. Brown was again elected sheriff, and served for three years, the

law at this time being changed so that sheriffs were thereafter to be elected in "even years."

Alexander Lowrie succeeded Mr. Brown, being elected in November, 1874. He was a brother of the former sheriff, W. W. Lowrie; came here with the old folks and settled in the town of Jefferson, where Alexander made his home until the time of his death, which occurred a few years ago. He was an excellent citizen and made a faithful and satisfactory official.

In November, 1876, Calvin E. Morley was elected sheriff and served one term. Calvin E. Morley was born in Irving, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Nov. 12, 1843. His parents came west in 1858, settling in the town of Franklin, Vernon, then Bad Ax county. In February, 1862, he enlisted in company C, 19th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served three years and four months. On the 27th of September, 1871, he was married to Louisa J. Bliss, daughter of Hon. Albert Bliss. In 1879 Mr. Morley engaged in the mercantile business, but owing to failing health, in 1880 he sold out and accepted a position as traveling salesman for Ricker, Crombie & Co., of Milwaukee. On the 16th of April, 1883, he was appointed aid-de-camp, with the rank of colonel, on the staff of Gov. J. M. Rusk.

James H. Hewey, of Viroqua, was elected Sheriff in November, 1878, and served for one term. He is now proprietor of a livery at Viroqua, and also a member of the firm of Russell & Hewey, dealers in agricultural implements. He was born in Kennebec Co., Maine, in 1830, and in 1855, located at Janesville, Wis. The year following he came to Bergen town, in this county, where he purchased land. For a number of years he was engaged in lumbering on the Black river, and subsequently owned a wagon shop at Chaseburg for five years. During the war he served one year as a member of company L, 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. In 1877, he became a resident of Viroqua, and in the fall of 1879 was elected sheriff of Vernon county, serving in that capacity one term. Mr. Hewey enjoys a very fair trade, both in the livery and implement business. He married Phebe Davis, a daughter of Jesse Davis, who lost his life by drowning, in 1855. Mrs. Davis and family came to Vernon county after the death of her husband, and settled in Bergen township. She now resides in La Crosse, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Hewey are the parents of three children, two living—Hannah and Effie. Ida died April 26, 1865.

Frank A. Wallar, succeeded Mr. Hewey as sheriff being elected in November, 1880. He came here with his parents in 1854, from Ohio and settled in the town of Sterling. Later they moved to the town of Genoa. When he was elected sheriff, he moved to Viroqua, where he lived until the spring of 1883 when he moved to Spink Co., D. T., where he still lives. Mr. Wallar was in the service as lieutenant of company I, 6th Wisconsin. The following mention of his army record was made by Maj. Earl M. Rogers: "Lieutenant F. A. Wallar, the only soldier who never missed a 'battle or a meal,' mustered out with the company after four years of active service, as brave a soldier as ever fought in the ranks. In the charge at Gettysburg July 1, 1863, on the rebel General Archer's brigade, in the railroad cut where the fight was hand to hand, Wallar sprang into rebel ranks, seized the colors of the 2d Mississippi regiment, wrenched them from the hands of the color bearer, and jumped back to the ranks of his own company with his trophy of war. For that act of conspicuous gallantry, example of undaunted bravery, courage and coolness, Congress, by a joint resolution voted him a medal of honor, which was presented to him in presence of the brigade, in February, 1865."

In November, 1882, S. R. Pollard was elected sheriff of Vernon county, and is the present incumbent. He was born in 1841, at Newark township, Tioga Co., N. Y. He enlisted Feb. 22, 1862, at Binghampton, Broome Co., N. Y., in the 16th New York Battery, an independent

regiment, serving three years in the army. He participated in both attacks on Fort Fisher, was at the battle of Fredericksburg and was in front of Petersburg during Grant's siege of that city. Mr. Pollard was married in 1865 to Amanda Bullard, born in New York State. He came to Vernon Co., Wis., in 1866, locating in Franklin township, and engaging in farming until elected sheriff. During the re-union of the G. A. R., of which organization Mr. Pollard is a member, Sept. 4, 1882, at Viroqua, he lost his arm by an accident. Mr. and Mrs. Pollard have two children—Dora B., born May 30, 1866, and Mancil E., born in March, 1870.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

When the county of Bad Ax was organized, the educational system of Wisconsin differed much from that of the present day. Then each civil town had a superintendent of schools. In the winter of 1860–1 the Legislature abolished the old system, and created the office of the county superintendent of schools.

While the county was organized as the civil town of Bad Ax, the first town superintendent was Michael Hinkst. He was succeeded by W. F. Terhune.

The first county superintendent of schools was Rev. L. L. Radcliff, who was elected in November, 1861. He came to Viroqua as a Congregational preacher; he was a thoroughly educated, industrious, methodical man and made a good superintendent. Upon him, as the first snperintendent, devolved the hard task of inaugurating and setting in motion the wheels of the new system.

In November, 1863, Hartwell Allen, of the town of Harmony, was elected county superintendent. He was re-elected in 1865, serving until Jan. 1, 1868.

In November, 1867, T. J. Shear, of Hillsborough, was elected to succeed Mr. Allen, and served one term.

J. N. Wright was elected in November, 1869, and served two years. Mr. Wright came to Vernon county at an early day from Ohio, and located in the town of Webster. He was a school teacher by profession and taught school in various parts of the county. A few years ago he removed to one of the northern Wisconsin counties.

Succeeding Mr. Wright, Hartwell Allen was again elected and served another term as superintendent.

In November, 1873, O. B. Wyman was elected county superintendent. In 1875 and 1877 he was re-elected, serving in all six years. He is now district attorney for Vernon county.

William Haughton succeeded Mr. Wyman, being elected in November, 1879, and re-elected in 1881. William Haughton moved with his family to Wisconsin in the year 1865 from western Canada, where his parents had settled with a large family, while he was still a boy. Brought up on a farm with an only brother two years younger than himself, his thoughts turned rather to books than to the plow. By wood and lake and breezy hills he became imbued with the spirit of poetry and at the age of fifteen was a contributor to a local paper published at Barrie on the shores of the beautiful lake Simcoe, north of the city of Toronto. Soon after he wrote for the *Morning Chronicle*, of Quebec, and for the *Times* of Owen Sound, on the borders of Huron, in Grey county, occasionally finding a welcome and a corner in Graham's and other American magazines, always writing under the *nom de plume* of Sylvicola, or the Woodsman. As his parents were members of the Church of England, whose gorgeous liturgy captivated his young heart, he prepared himself both by home study under the direction and assistance of the pastor of his Church, and by the aid of public schools for the ministry of the establishment. While yet young he became a fair classical and mathematical scholar and soon began the study of theology. Circumstances, however, prevented his entering the ministry of the Church of England.

Instead thereof he married the girl of his heart's choice, whom he had known from child-

hood, and ere he was yet twenty-one or she seventeen years old they took upon themselves the cares and burdens of housekeeping, settling in western Canada, where he taught school and gave private instructions for a living. He has never had cause to regret his early marriage. His companion has been a faithful and loving wife through all these years; at this writing the mother of twelve children, four boys and eight girls. Three of the number sleep, and nine are living. One girl is married to Henry Carson, Jr., of the Viroqua *Censor*; another to Theodore Brown, of Canada, but who now resides near Viroqua; and one has been for some years a teacher in the graded schools of Viroqua.

As before stated, Mr. Haughton settled in Wisconsin the year of Lincoln's martyrdom in 1865. He loved America long before he came to it. He wrote of her liberties and noble institutions, and at last received a welcome and a home in the land he loved. Soon after coming he published the lines that have since appeared in book form under the caption of *Ad Meam Musam*, which perhaps we will be pardoned in reproducing here:

Come my old harp, in other days
We trilled some wild and stirring lays,
Though rude our songs, yet full and free
We poured untaught our minstrelsy;
And there were hearts that heard and felt
Our music oft could soothe and melt;
Could fall entranced on beauty's ear,
And wake the sigh and win the tear.
Through Kippel's shades—by Huron's strand—
I swept thee with inspiring hand;
By Elva's lonely stream I gave
Thy music to the trembling wave.

Here still the morn thy songs invite,
The parting eve—The starry night—
The fragrant vale—The leafy hill,
The lake, the mountain and the rill,
Here where Itasca's gorgeous lake
With glory burns—awake—awake!
Where Mississippi's waters roll
Are scenes to warm and nerve the soul.
We love the land whose kindly breast
A welcome gave and bade us rest.

Her patriot songs, her birds and flowers.
Her mountains and her lakes and ours.
No stranger wanders to her heart
Then longs to leave it and depart,
Her generous grasp is round him thrown
She wins and wears him as her own.
O, heaven blessed land! from sea to sea,
From isle to isle they throng to thee—
They come thy noblest boons to share—
Enough for all, and yet to spare.

In boyhoods years we loved to tell
Of how her heroes fought and fell;
How met the dark oppressors pride—
Beat back his hosts and conquering died.
We loved to trace her history o'er,
And longed to tread her sacred shore;
To feel the liberty she gave
And find near her great heart a grave.
For me, when I her name forget—
The welcome on these shores I met—
May I an ingrate, wandering roam,
An outcast from the joys of home.

Mr. Haughton moved from La Crosse county to Newton, in Vernon county, in 1872, where he took charge of the Harmony Baptist Church, and where he accepted ordination to the ministry. In the fall of the following year, he took charge of the Viroqua Graded School, and afterward, of the High School, of which schools he continued in charge for four years. For some eight years he served the Congregational Church at Viroqua, as acting pastor, giving up that charge in 1881. He has by continued and close attention to his duties, won the good will and confidence of the public, laboring amongst the schools during the week days and preaching at some point on Sundays, when Churches and people are in need of, and willing to hear the gospel. For several years, he was a contributor to the Viroqua *Censor*, and from which office a small collection of some of his poems were given the public in book form. He continued for many years to write for the Canadian papers and is State contributor to the Milwaukee *Wisconsin*, where he is retained upon the staff of correspondents to that widely circulated and very popular publication. Mr. Haughtons heart and soul are enlisted in the cause of

education and this fact enables him to be a faithful servant of the public, which has seen fit to continue him so far in his present work and for which his early training and predelictions fit him.

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Samuel McMichael was the first surveyor of Bad Ax county, being elected at the organization of the county in April, 1851. In November, 1851, and again in 1853, he was re-elected. Samuel McMichael was born in Crawford Co., Penn., in 1815, and moved with his parents to Muskingum Co., Ohio. In 1850 he came west with his family to Vernon Co., Wis., and settled at Springville, in the town of Jefferson. There he lived until 1854, when he moved to Viroqua, which place remained his home until the time of his death. When the war broke out he enlisted in company C, 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and was taken prisoner at Shiloh, April 6, 1862, with Prentiss' division. He was placed in the rebel prison at Macon, Ga., and died on the 27th of June, 1862 Samuel McMichael was a much respected man among the pioneers, and his sad death was widely mourned in Vernon county.

In September, 1855, W. F. Beavers was elected surveyor, but only served a short time when he died and Samuel McMichael was appointed to fill the vacancy thus occasioned. Beavers came from Indiana in 1853, and settled at Springville, in the town of Jefferson. He was a professional surveyor, following that business for a living. He was well thought of by all who knew him, and gave excellent satisfaction as a surveyor.

Samuel McMichael was elected in November, 1856, to serve out the balance of Beavers' term.

In November, 1857, Green Spurrier was elected surveyor and served one term. Mr. Spurrier came from Ohio in 1854, and settled with his family at Viroqua. He was a professional surveyor. He remained at Viroqua until during the war, when he moved to near Sparta, Monroe county, and died there in 1881. He was a pleasant, social fellow, quite a politician and made many friends here.

Lemuel Joseph was elected surveyor in November, 1859, and was re-elected in 1861 and 1863, serving six years. He came here with his family from Ohio, in 1855, and settled upon a farm in the town of Webster. He lived there until he died, about 1873.

B. S. Moore, of Readstown, succeeded Lemuel Joseph, as surveyor. He was elected in November, 1865, and served one term.

H. C. Joseph became a surveyor by virtue of the election in November, 1867. He was a son of the former surveyor, Samuel Joseph. He remained upon his father's farm until about 1876, when he removed to Sioux City, Iowa, and is now engaged in farming near that place. He was an excellent citizen, conscientious and honorable in all of his dealings with men.

In November, 1869, I. F. Thorp, of the town of Jefferson, was elected surveyor and served one term.. I. F. Thorp became a resident of Vernon county in the fall of 1856, and has since resided in Jefferson township. He was born May 1, 1832, in Muskingum Co., Ohio, his p r-ents being Morgan and Mary A. Thorp. When eight years old he was left motherless, and resided until fifteen years of age with Daniel Murphy, a farmer, at which time he began life for himself. He subsequently worked for different parties, at various employments, attending school at intervals, and thus obtaining a good education. In 1854 he was married to Mary E. Joseph, and two years later came to Wisconsin, making the trip with a team. His wife died in the fall of 1866, leaving one daughter—Sarah, who died July 4, 1879. In the spring of 1857 Mr. Thorp and Archibald Morrison succeeded John M. Goldrich in the manufacture of fanning mills. They continued in partnership one season, since which time Mr. Thorp has given his attention to farming. He is a republican, and has held the office of township clerk, was county surveyor two terms, and has

held the office of justice of the peace for several years.

B. S. Moore, of Readstown, succeeded Mr. Thorp and served one term.

In November, 1873, I. F. Thorp was again elected surveyor.

Egbert Wyman, of Hillsborough, was elected surveyor in November, 1875, and served two years. He is now reading law in the office of Rusk & Wyman at Viroqua.

W. H. Knower, of Genoa, was elected in November, 1877, and being re-elected in 1879 and 1881, is the present surveyor. Mr. Knower has been a resident of the county since 1855. He was born in Roxbury, Mass., in 1830, and lived there until he was ten years of age, when he went to the city of New York with his parents. He received a good education and was engaged in teaching many years, both before and since he came west, He first came to Wisconsin in 1850, but returned to Brooklyn and engaged in business. In 1855 he came west to stay. He was married in Rock Co., Wis., to Mary Elliott. They have three sons and one daughter.

COUNTY JUDGE.

Thomas J. De Frees was the first county judge of Bad Ax county. He was elected upon the organization of the county in April, 1851, and served four years.

Hon. William F. Terhune, of Viroqua, succeeded T. J. De Frees as county judge. He was elected in September, 1855.

In April, 1858, Hon. James E. Newell, of Viroqua, was elected county judge, serving a term of four years.

Hon. Carson Graham succeeded Judge Newell. He was elected in April, 1861, and re-elected in April, 1865, serving eight years,

In April, 1869, Hon. William S. Purdy, of Viroqua, was elected county judge.

Through the election of county judge, in April, 1873, there arose one of the most important lawsuits that has ever been decided by the supreme court of Wisconsin. The candidates for county judge were William S. Purdy, the incumbent, and James E. Newell. Mr. Purdy received 1,217 votes and Mr. Newell 1,240, a majority for the latter of twenty-three votes. The salary of the county judge had been fixed at $1,000 per annum, by the board of supervisors. During the campaign J. E. Newell published a card addressed to the voters, stating that he would attend to the duties of the office for the sum of $600 per annum. After the result of the election was declared, Mr. Purdy refused to give up the office. Both parties claimed to be elected, and both filed the official oath and bond required by law. Whereupon an action in the nature of *quo warranto* was brought in the supreme court by the attorney general at the relation of J. E. Newell, to determine which of the parties had been elected to the office. The grounds upon which the plaintiff, or relator, stood, was that he had received a majority of twenty-three votes over his opponent, and was therefore entitled to the office. The defendant, W. S. Purdy, based his defense upon the ground that the offer of J. E. Newell to perform the work of the office for $600, and thus donate $400 to the county, was a species of bribery and tended to a corruption of the ballot box. He further named 100 voters and tax payers who it was claimed "intended to vote for the defendant, but were unlawfully and wrongfully induced by said corrupt offers of the relator, J. E. Newell, to change their purpose and vote for said relator." The points, made in the argument, supporting the grounds taken by the defense were: "1. It is bribery to pay money to a voter or to promise him money or any other pecuniary consideration whereby he is induced to vote, or to forbear voting, or whereby he is induced to vote for a particular candidate. 2. Though the offer here was to pay the county, and not the voters directly, yet it was an offer of pecuniary benefit to the voter and tax payer by diminished taxation if he would vote for the relator and secure his election. 3. All votes obtained by the pecuniary inducement offered by the relator are illegal and must be disregarded by the court in

this action." After a lengthy argument the supreme court decided in favor the defendant, and held that W. S. Purdy was entitled to the office of county judge of Vernon county for another four years.

In April, 1877, Hon. C. M. Butt, of Viroqua, was elected county judge. In April, 1881, he was re-elected.

The gentlemen who have held the office of county judge, having all been lawyers, are treated at length in the bar chapter.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

As all of the gentlemen who have held this office are treated at length in the chapter devoted to the bar, in this connection it will only be necessary to give their names and the years in which they were elected:

Lorenzo A. Pierce, 1851; T. J. DeFrees, 1853, 1855; Royal C. Bierce, 1857; C. M. Butt, 1859; W. F. Terhune, 1861; D. B. Priest, 1863, 1865; J. E. Newell, 1867; Carson Graham, 1869; C. M. Butt, 1871, 1873; H. P. Proctor, 1875, 1877, 1879; O. B. Wyman, 1881.

CORONER.

This office was not filled at the organization of the county. From the records it would appear that the office was vacant a good many years.

Clement Spaulding was the first coroner of the county, being elected in November, 1851.

In November, 1857, Jeremiah M. Rusk was elected coroner. He is the present governor of Wisconsin.

In November, 1861, Charles W. Pitcher was elected coroner. Pitcher came from Illinois in 1855 and settled at Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin. He remained there a number of years, then moved to Viroqua. From the latter place he went to Sparta, where his wife died. He has since moved to Iowa.

Elisha W. Pickerael succeeded Mr. Pitcher as coroner, being elected in 1863. Mr. Pickerael came from Ohio in 1856 and settled in Viroqua, where he was married a few days later to Rachel White. He was a school teacher by profession. He remained in the village for several years; then purchased a farm east of town where he moved and lived until his death in 1872. He was a good citizen; esteemed by all who knew him.

In November, 1865, H. A. Robinson was elected coroner. In 1867 he was re-elected. Robinson was a blacksmith who settled at Liberty Pole, town of Franklin, at an early day. About 1856 he moved to Viroqua, and opened a shop there, remaining until the time of his death.

H. D. Williams, of Viroqua, was elected coroner in 1869 and re-elected in 1871.

C. E. Morley succeeded Mr. Williams, being elected in November, 1873.

B. J. Castle, a newspaper man from De Soto, was elected coroner in November, 1875, and served two years.

H. C. Gosling, of Viroqua, was elected coroner in 1877.

Succeeding Mr. Gosling, in November, 1879, C. E. Morley was again elected coroner and served one term.

Stanley Stout, of the town of Liberty, was elected coroner in November, 1881, and is the present incumbent.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The first physician to locate within the limits of the territory now constituting Vernon county was Dr. John H. Sudduth. He was a Kentuckian by birth; but came from Grant Co., Wis., in 1847 or 1848, and located upon a farm in what is now the town of Jefferson. In 1850 he moved to the village of Springville, where he remained until just before the breaking out of the war, when he moved to St. Charles, Minn. He is still in practice at that place, having become very wealthy.

The second physician in the county was Dr. George A. Swain. Some of the early settlers, however, claim that Dr. Swain came full as early as Dr. Sudduth. Dr. Swain came from Ohio and located upon a farm near where Brookville now is in the town of Franklin. There he remained until a few years ago, when he removed to Kansas, where he died in 1883.

The first physician in the county educated for the profession was Dr. Henry G. Weeden.

VILLAGE OF VIROQUA.

The most prominent physicians who have been located at Viroqua in the past are Drs. Henry G. Weeden, Elisha W. Tinker, J. H. Schooley and James Rusk. Among those who have studied medicine and really began their professional career here, the most of them, however, attending and graduating from some medical college, are the following named: Drs. W. W. Rusk, now deceased; Cass Purdy, now of Iowa; W. B. Morley, now of Nealsville, Wis.; Albert Cory, of Chaseburg; J. B. Trowbridge, now of Minnesota; Frank Johnson of Brownsdale, Minn.; and Dr. Chase.

Dr. Henry G. Weeden was the first physician to locate at Viroqua. Dr. Weeden was born in the town of Washington, Orleans Co., Vt., on the 29th of October, 1821. He was educated at Burlington, in his native State, and came to Viroqua in 1852. He remained here until 1866, when he removed to Montana, where he died on the 26th of August, 1871. His family still live in Montana. Dr. Weeden was one of the sufferers by the terrible tornado of 1865. One of his children was killed, he was severely injured and his buildings were destroyed. Dr. Weeden was a man of education, both generally and professionally. He improved the farm adjacent to Viroqua, now occupied by Nathan Coe.

Dr. Elisha W. Tinker was the second physician to locate at Viroqua. He came here from Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1854, and at once began practice. He remained until May, 1883, when he removed to the State of Missouri, where he still lives and follows his profession. He was a good physician and an excellent man.

Dr. J. H. Schooley came from Ohio in 1855, and located with his family at Viroqua. He was not a graduate of any medical school, but was a man of "good, sound sense and had had some experience" in the profession. He was about fifty years of age. He remained here for a number of years and then removed to Missouri.

Dr. James Rusk came to Viroqua in 1857. He was a son of Daniel Rusk, Sr., one of the early settlers of Perry Co., Ohio, where James was born Sept. 14, 1815. When he was about

thirteen years of age his father removed to Morgan county, where until early manhood James remained; and there, while aiding in carving out a home for his parents, he laid the foundation of those principles of uprightness and integrity which characterized him in after life. His education was such as patient, unaided individual effort gives those who honestly yearn for knowledge. He began life as a teacher, but after some months thus spent he entered the office of Dr. Lyman Little, of Deavertown, with whom he remained until he completed the then required course. In 1838 he began the practice of medicine at Nelsonville, Ohio. During this year he was married to Anna M. Little, daughter of Dr. James Little, of Roseville. In 1839 he removed to Morgan county, and until 1855 continued practice in that county. In the meantime, 1849, he graduated at the Sterling Medical College, of Columbus. In 1855 he removed to McConnelsville, Ohio, and remained there until coming to Viroqua in 1857. Here he remained until the time of his death, April 15, 1872, aged fifty-six years. He was an esteemed and respected citizen. His widow still resides in Viroqua. Their eight children, five of whom are still living, were as follows—Sarah J., now wife of N. McKie, of Viroqua; Elizabeth, died when eighteen years of age; Hettie M., now wife of M. C. Nichols of Viroqua: Albert married Clara Chase, and now lives upon a farm near Viroqua; Dr. W. W. died March 29, 1882; Susan J., now Mrs. Edson Leavitt, living near Bangor; and David L., of Viroqua.

In 1883 the medical profession was represented at Viroqua, by the following named gentlemen: Drs. William A. Gott, H. A. Chase, J. B. Richards, J. H. Suttle and J. K. Schreiner.

Dr. Wm. A. Gott came to Vernon county in the spring of 1857, and located at Readstown. He was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1830, where he was brought up. He began the study of medicine in 1849; attended two courses of lectures at the Albany Medical College, and graduated at the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, in 1852. After his graduation he was surgeon in the Albany City Hospital, for three years. He came to this county, as stated, in the spring of 1857. In 1862 he entered the army as assistant surgeon of the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, was promoted surgeon, in which capacity he served during the last year of the war. He located at Viroqua, in September, 1865. Dr. Gott is a thoroughly educated physician, and by his long and successful practice as a physician and surgeon, has secured an enviable reputation in his profession. The doctor has been twice married; his first wife was Marion S. Gill, born at Strykersville, Wyoming Co., N. Y. She died in the spring of 1880. His present wife was Mrs. Lydia R. (Ruggles) Peck. She was for many years a teacher in the High School, at Chippewa Falls, in this State. The doctor has two daughters by his first marriage—Florence and Helen.

Dr. Henry A. Chase located at Viroqua in the spring of 1868. He was born in Windsor Co., Vt., in 1844. He removed, when a boy, with his father, S. A. Chase, to Fond du Lac, Wis., where the father still resides. Dr. Chase commenced the study of medicine in 1860, and in 1862 entered the service of the United States as a surgeon's steward, in the Navy. In 1863, when less than twenty years of age, he re-entered the service as hospital steward in the 38th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was severely wounded in front of Petersburg, in June, 1864, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. He graduated from Rush Medical College, of Chicago, in the class of 1868, and soon after located in Viroqua Dr. Chase is an excellent physician and an esteemed citizen. Politically, he is an ardent republican, and was chosen to represent the second assembly district, in the State Legislature, during the session of 1871 and 1872. Dr. Chase was united in marriage to

Emma Tiffany, a native of New York. They are the parents of two children—Henry A. Jr., and Mary E.

Dr. J. B. Richards located at Viroqua, July 26, 1879. He was born in Bristol, Maine, in 1832, and at the age of seventeen went to Boston, Mass., and was employed as a druggist clerk. He also devoted his spare time to the study of medicine, and finally attended four courses of lectures at Harvard Medical College, of Boston. He began the practice of medicine in 1856, and in 1858 located at La Crosse, Wis., where he practiced his profession and was engaged in the drug trade for twenty years. Dr. Richard's long experience as a pharmacist, and skill as a physician, have won for him a substantial practice, and his upright character and social attainments during his residence in Viroqua have gained for him a host of friends. Dr. Richards married Ellen E. Washburn, of Oxford, Maine. They have been blessed with four children—J. W., a druggist of Minto, Grand Forks Co., Dak.; J. B., Jr., an attorney-at-law at Frederick, Brown Co., Dak; Jessie, an only daughter, and Frank, at home.

Dr. H. J. Suttle, homeopathic physician, located at Viroqua on the 5th of May, 1883. He was the first physician of his school to locate here. He was born at Hazel Green, Grant Co., Wis., in 1852. He began the study of medicine at Lancaster, in 1878, with Dr. S. E. Hussell, and graduated at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, in the class of 1883, coming here soon afterward.

TOWN OF VIROQUA.

Dr. J. L. Walloe, a Norwegian physician, located upon a farm about four miles north of the village of Viroqua at an early day and engaged in the practice of medicine. He was a good physician and secured a very large practice, remaining until the time of his death in 1881.

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Dr. Aaron Winslow was the first physician to locate here. Those who have practiced here in the past are: Dr. Leonard, J. I. Hamilton, J. R. Dundlett, Dr. Worthy and D. B. Newman. In 1883 the medical profession was represented by Drs. F. R. Pinch and A. C. Morris, in the village of Hillsborough, and Dr. R. Shear, in the northern part of the town.

Dr. Aaron Winslow came from Maine in 1848 and located near Warren, Ill. In 1856 he came north and settled upon a farm south of the village, where he resumed his practice of medicine. In 1870 he moved into the village and remained until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1883. Soon after moving into the village Dr. Winslow engaged in the drug trade, and later his son became associated with him. The business is still carried on under the name of A. Winslow & Son. Dr. Winslow was a graduate of the Bowdoin Medical College, Maine. He had been engaged in practice prior to coming west, and had been physician on a line of sailing vessels for a number of years. He was an excellent practitioner.

Dr. Leonard, an allopathist, came from Wonewoc, Juneau Co., Wis., just before the war and settled in the village of Hillsborough. He remained for a few years, then left, and has since turned up at Wonewoc, where he still lives. He was a good doctor.

Dr. J. I. Hamilton was raised here, his parents being among the very first settlers in the town. He went upon the road as agent for a Dr. Dodge, learned the business and then started out for himself. He never settled here for steady practice. The most of his business was obtained abroad, and he made money at it. He is now located at Vanville, near Augusta, Eau Claire Co., Wis.

Dr. J. R. Rundlett located in the village of Hillsborough in 1872, shortly after graduating from Rush Medical College, Chicago. He remained until 1880, when he went to Augusta, Eau Clair county, where he still lives. He was a good physician and had a very fair practice while here.

Dr. Worthy came here from Irontown, Wis., in 1875. He remained about six months and then returned to his former home. He was a graduate of Rush Medical College, and when sober was a good physician.

Dr. D. B. Newman was raised in the town of Forest, Vernon county, where his parents were among the first settlers. He graduated at the Rush Medical College, Chicago, and then located at Kendall, Wis., remaining for a year or two, when, in 1876, he located in the village of Hillsborough. He remained until 1880, when he went to Cumberland, Barron Co., Wis., where he still lives. He was a good physician, and a man who was respected and esteemed by all.

BLOOMINGDALE.

The first physician to locate here was Dr. Amos Carpenter, now of Seelyburg. Others were Drs. Hamilton and Lewis. The only physician located here in 1883 was Dr. J. M. Poff.

ONTARIO.

The medical profession is represented at this point by Drs. Manning and Johnson.

ROCKTON.

Dr. Frederick Moffitt was located at this point for several years, leaving in 1882 for Dane Co., Wis., where he still lives.

TOWN OF WEBSTER.

Dr. A. J. Lewis is the representative of the medical profession in this town.

SEELYBURG.

At this point, Dr. Amos Carpenter is the only physician.

SPRINGVILLE.

Dr. James H. Hockenberry was the only representative of the medical profession at Springville, in 1883.

DE SOTO.

The first regular physician to locate at De Soto was Dr. G. S. Sperry, who came here from St. Paul in the summer of 1856. He was an excellent physician. He died in 1873. Others who were regular physicians, were Drs. G. W. Brooks, F. Worth, Dr. Dunlap and Dr. Huntington. Among those who have borne the title of "doctor," although not educated physicians, were Dr. E. B. Houghton, the original proprietor of the village of De Soto, who removed from here to LaCrosse, and thence to St. Louis, where he died; and Dr. James Osgood, who came in 1854, and assisted in laying out the village.

In 1883 the representative of the medical profession at De Soto was Dr. Orlando Ewers.

VICTORY.

Dr. A. J. Wiard was the only regular physician that has been located at Victory. He left for Nebraska in 1878.

TOWN OF STERLING.

Dr. S. A. Mellen is located at Retreat, in the town of Sterling, and has a good practice.

Dr. D. A. Bean, located at Red Mound, is also one of the physicians of this town. He has a large and increasing practice.

S. A. Mellen, M. D., came to Vernon county in 1871. He lived for one year on section 14, of township 11 north, of range 6 west, and in 1872 bought the place that he now occupies at Retreat. He has built up a large practice, his drives extending into Crawford county. He was born at Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Jan. 2, 1839. When he was eight years of age, his father emigrated to Wisconsin, and became a pioneer of Sheboygan county. He bought government land, improved a farm, and still makes that his home. In early life, Mr. Mellen attended school at the Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., and in 1863, entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he prosecuted his studies until the fall of 1864. He then went to Hingham, Sheboygan Co., Wis., and commenced practice. He received a diploma from the Sheboygan County Medical Society, and remained in Hingham until 1871, when he came to Vernon county. Dr. Mellen was married July 7, 1863, to S. Adelia Lombard, a native of Otsego Co., N. Y. They are the parents of two children —Hattie A. and Willie A. Since Dr. Mellen located in Sterling township, his excellent repu-

tation as a skilled physician has gained for him an extensive patronage, and by his gentlemanly behavior and kind manners has won a host of warm friends.

NEWTON.

Dr. William Webster was the first physician to settle in the town of Harmony. He came from Waupon, Wis., in 1858, and remained here until the time of his death a few years ago.

Dr. Marshall came to the village of Newton from Vermont, in 1871 or 1872. He remained about two years.

Dr. Tucker was the next physician. He came from Chickasaw Co., Iowa, about 1876, remained a few years, and then went to Clear Lake, Iowa.

The present practicing physician at Newton is Dr. Mussey, who located there in the spring of 1883.

CHASEBURG.

The first physician to locate at Chaseburg was Dr. W. W. Rusk, who died March 29, 1882. In 1883 the medical profession was represented at this point by Dr. Albert Cory.

Albert Cory, the only physician in the town of Hamburg, was born at Janesville, Wis., in 1855. The following year his parents removed to the town of Kickapoo, in this county, where the doctor was reared. He spent four years attending school in Pennsylvania, and then returned to Viroqua, where he studied medicine with Dr. Chase. In 1880 he entered Rush Medical College, at Chicago, Ill., from which he graduated Feb. 25, 1882. He then located at Batavia, where he built up a large and lucrative practice; but under the urgent solicitation of his former preceptor, Dr. Chase, he came to Chaseburg, and the success he has attained is proof that his move was in the right direction. The doctor is a very pleasant gentleman and well esteemed as a citizen and neighbor. On Christmas day of the centennial year (Dec. 25, 1876) he was married to Miss Ida Bennett. They have three sons—Walter, Stanley and Arthur.

GENOA.

The first physician to locate at Genoa was Dr. Bugaizy, an Italian, who came here from Galena, Ill., in 1856. He secured a good practice among his people and remained for about four years, when it is thought he went back to his former home in Galena.

READSTOWN.

Dr. C. M. Poff, eclectic physician at Readstown, Kickapoo township, Wis., was born March 21, 1840, in Jay Co., Ind., being a son of J. J. and Eliza J. (Miller) Poff, natives of Ohio. His father was a physician and an early settler of Jay county. When Dr. Poff was five years of age his parents moved to Howard Co., Ind., where he commenced the study of medicine with his father. On June 8, 1861, he enlisted in company E, 13th Indiana Volunteers, and went south. He was severely wounded at the battle of Rich Mountain, West Va., on July 11, 1861, and as soon as able went home on furlough. In August, 1862, he was discharged on account of disability. In 1865, by advice of his physician, he came west in search of health, first settling in Richland Co., Wis., where he bought a tract of land and built a house, and finished the study of medicine. In 1867 he came to Readstown and opened an office for the practice of medicine. He has been very successful, his practice extending into Richland and Crawford counties. Dr. Poff assisted in the organization of the first eclectic medical society in the State of Wisconsin, in 1875. He is also a prominent member of the Christian Church, and an ordained minister of that denomination. Dr. Poff was married April 25, 1863, to Rachel C. Armstrong, born at Dupont, Jefferson Co., Ind. Six children blessed this union, three of whom are livng—Rosella Belle, Ada Florence and Lillian May. Rosella Belle, the oldest daughter,

is now in Republic Co., Kansas, teaching school.

ONTARIO.

H. P. Miller, the leading physician of the eastern part of Vernon county, was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., in 1840. He resided there till fifteen years of age, and then accompanied his parents to Vernon Co., Wis. He was in attendance at the Viroqua High School and the Allamakee College, of Allamakee, Iowa, and then commenced the study of medicine. He had for his preceptors Drs. Tinker, of Viroqua, and Taylor, of Lansing, Iowa, and at the expiration of a three years' study, went to Chicago, Ill. He there entered Rush Medical College, and attended that famous medical institution during the winter of 1865–6. Shortly after graduation, he returned to Vernon county, and commenced the practice of his profession in the village of Ontario. Since locating there five other physicians have opened offices, but the tireless energy and determination of our subject, and his growing popularity among all classes of people, forced them to retire from the field, leaving Dr. Miller in complete possession. The doctor has also prospered in a worldly point of view, and now owns a residence and two village lots, and 135 acres of land on section 10. He was united in marriage, in 1866, to Hattie, daughter of Stephen and Cynthia Cotterell. Dr. and Mrs. Miller have five children living—Howard C., Bessie P., Mary H., Bertha Orpha and Harvey C. One son, Lester D., died in 1872.

CHAPTER XXII.

AGRICULTURE AND THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The trend of the earliest industries of a country is the result of the circumstances under which those industries are developed. The attention of pioneers is confined to supplying the immediate wants of food, shelter and clothing. Hence, the first settlers of a country are farmers, miners, trappers or fishermen, according as they can most readily secure the means of present sustneance for themselves and their families. In the early history of Wisconsin, this law is well exemplified. The southern part of the State consisting of alternations of prairie and timber was first settled by farmers. As the country has developed, as wealth has accumulated, and as means of transportation have been furnished, farming has ceased to be the sole interest. Manufactories have been built along the rivers and the mining industry of the southwestern part of the State has grown to be one of considerable importance. The shore of Lake Michigan was first mainly settled by fishermen, but the later growth of agriculture and manufactories has nearly overshadowed the fishing interest; as has the production of lumber in the north half of the State eclipsed the trapping and fur interests of the first settlers.

As Vernon county consists of timber land, oak openings and prairie, it is now, and was originally, settled by farmers almost exclusively. As yet, manufactories may be said to be practically unknown. The farming interests are paramount to all others and doubtless will be for generations to come. There are no pineries or great lakes on its borders and the Mississippi is only available, so far as the county is concerned, to aid in transporting to market its surplus farming products. That manufactories will rise up, upon the introduction of greater railway facilities, is certain, but that they will overshadow the farming interests of Vernon county before the ending of a century from this time or even longer, is exceedingly doubtful.

The Chicago *Tribune* had this to say, in 1861, of Vernon (then Bad Ax) county:

"Of this county nearly one-third is prairie, quite rolling and very rich. I do not know where I have ever seen any prairie soil that looks richer, or that bears heavier wheat It is a rich black, vegetable mould, of a clayey texture and basis, and such as has been tested seems to be enduring and wears well. Near one-third is oak opening or ridge land, covered with oak undergrowth or grubs. These ridges are quite broad in many places, furnishing good locations for farms. There has been opened up many ridge farms. The land where cultivated appears to be a clayey loam—a good wheat soil, and which has so far turned out excellent crops of wheat.

The balance of the country is covered with heavy timber—oak being the predominating kind. This timber is valuable because of its nearness to good prairie, and the land is as good, even better for corn. Though the timber is heavy, the land is easily tilled, owing probably to the fact that the roots of the trees lie deep in the grouud, which admits of the soil being plowed close to the stumps. Taken as a whole there is scarcely an acre of waste land in this county. Though somewhat rough, its

slopes and hillsides admit of cultivation nearly to the top.

Such parts of this county as are unfit for the plough are most admirably adapted to the rearing of sheep. In fact, to my mind, much of northwestern Wisconsin is admirably adapted to sheep husbandry.

The population of this county is 11,500. In 1855, it numbered a little over 4,000. La Crosse was then about 4,000, as was Monroe, lying east of La Crosse. These latter have had the benefit of railroads to stimulate their growth. La Crosse being possessed of much good farming lands and several small villages, as well as the city of La Crosse, numbers 13,500, while Monroe, with a smart village or two, with more poor land, has but 8,400. To my mind Bad Ax has more than kept pace with her neighbors, considering her secluded position.

There is estimated to be in this county this year, at least 1,000,000 bushels of surplus wheat seeking a market. Of pork, there will be enough for home consumption, and possibly a little for sale. Cattle and sheep are beginning to receive attention, and but a few years will elapse before the hill-sides will be covered with large herds of lowing cattle and flocks of bleating sheep.

Some attention is being paid to fruit. Here and there were to be seen newly set orchards. In time, after the trees have become acclimated it is my impression that the hillsides, and especially the northern slopes of Bad Ax county will be covered with orchards heavily laden with rich and luscious fruit.

The numerous streams in this county furnish ample water power, which combined with its excellent timber, will supply numerous openings for the employment of capital in manufacturing agricultural implements, and also for the purpose of building mills, to flour their own wheat.

The people of this county look forward with no small degree of interest to the day when they shall be favored with railroad facilities such as will place them on an equal footing with their more favored neighbors."

VERNON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Bad Ax County Agricultural Society was organized and chartered April 11, 1857. The society in 1859 had seventy members, each paying an initiation fee of one dollar, and an equal sum per annum. The payment of ten dollars constituted a life membership. Other modes of obtaining funds were from admission fees into the fair grounds. The society possessed in real estate ten acres of land enclosed with a board fence seven feet high, and valued at $800. Here an exhibition is held annually, when $100 are paid for premiums, the largest being $5 for the best address; a similar sum, each, for the best stallion and best acre of wheat, and $4 for the best bull. The library then consisted of forty-seven volumes, worth $100. Since the fair of 1857 there was, up to 1859, a great improvement in domestic animals and an increase in crops. The desire for agricultural knowledge had become general.

In 1883 the society was in excellent financial condition. The fair grounds were located about a quarter of a mile west of the court house. They embraced about fifteen acres of land, valued at about $30 per acre. They were well supplied with buildings, and well fenced. The old $10 life membership fee had been abolished, and the by-laws provided that "$1 pay for a membership, and each member should buy a $1 family ticket each year." There were $300 in the treasury of the society in 1883.

In 1883 the officers of the society were: President, F. K. Van Wagoner; secretary, O. B. Wyman; treasurer, E. Powell; vice-presidents, H. H. Morgan, of Wheatland; P. Brody, of Clinton; J. H. Stevenson, of Harmony. Executive committee, E. A. Stark, of Viroqua, chairman; E. Tilton, of Viroqua; John M. Vance, of Sterling; Edward Minshall, of Viroqua; and F. W. Alexander, of Franklin.

At the last fair held at Viroqua, in September, 1883, the whole number of entries was 563. The total receipts from the sale of tickets were $696; receipts from entrance fees were $174.60; from stand licenses, $153.50; from rent of ground, etc., $24.60. Total receipts, $1,048.70.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE PRESS.

Bad Ax county had been organized over five years before there was a newspaper published within its limits. This, of course, besides the inconvenience to its citizens individually, tended, in a considerable degree, to retard the progress of the county generally. The necessity for a printing press and the publication of a paper, to be located at the county seat, finally became so urgent as to induce the establishment of the

NORTHWESTERN TIMES.

The first issue, then called the *Western Times*, was dated June 7, 1856. J. A. Somerby was editor and proprietor. It was a weekly, and was started as "an independent family newspaper, devoted to news and miscellaneous reading." The salutatory of the editor was as follows:

TO OUR READERS.

"We take pleasure in presenting to you the first number of the *Western Times*. We should have been able to issue it sooner and improved its appearance, but circumstances have prevented our having a decent office, and the rainy, tedious weather that we encountered in getting here, the disarrangement and injury to material, have imposed upon all concerned a heavy task, considerable ill health and a great deal of vexation.

"But here it is, without very late news, because we have no exchanges, and had to borrow such papers as we could get.

"The *Times* will be independent of all party organizations, and will reserve the right to express the opinion of its editor, and leave its readers to judge of their correctness.

"We invite the co-operation of all who wish correct information disseminated through the community, and all those who are willing to furnish literary articles or items of news, are respectfully solicited to devote a little time to keeping us posted up in relation to all that is new and useful. We have only time to say that we will continue this subject in our next, when there will be less "noise and confusion" than we are subject to in getting out this number.

"☞ We regret very much that the "*various hindrances we met* in getting out this number delayed us until Saturday night, instead of getting out as we intended to at 1 o'clock."

The following announcement appears at the head of the editorial column of the first number of the paper:

POSTPONEMENT.

"The sale of the first copy of the *Western Times*, (being the first copy of a newspaper ever printed in Bad Ax county), to have been sold on the 31st day of May, will now be sold *without fail*, on Saturday, the 7th day of June. The first copy is now printed and safely locked up, ready for the highest bidder. We were extremely chagrined and mortified (*sic*), that we were unable to issue the first number on the 31st ult.; but a variety of hindrances and disappointments rendered it impossible. The eagerness that has been manifested to obtain a copy of the first number, and particularly the *first copy*, was very gratifying, and particularly so when

J. C. Nixon

the heavy expense and multitude of difficulties that have been encountered, are considered. The prospect is that the bidding on the 7th of June will be very animated, and may even excell the sale of the first paper ever printed in Newport, Wis., last year."

Following this "postponement" is a notice in these words: "We have dated this number a few days ahead of its appearance, in order to begin with June, and to have ample time to book our subscription list, and perfect all our arrangements."

Another brief paragraph containing information concerning the paper is found in the same column, and is as follows: "We shall soon be in possession of our exchange list and become familiar enough with our location to complete our arrangements for receiving late news. We can then make our paper more interesting and acceptable."

In his prospectus the editor says: "The *Times* will be what its name indicates, a record of passing events at home and containing foreign news, miscellaneous and literary reading matter. It will be devoted to the interests of Bad Ax county and the surrounding region. The *Times* will labor ardently for the prosperity of all its patrons without partiality for any particular location, and independent of party organizations.

"The people of Bad Ax county and the adjacent country, are respectfully invited to send in their own and the names of their friends and neighbors, as subscribers, and also prepare and send in such advertising as they wish to have inserted.

"☞ All letters and communications should be addressed to J. A. Somerby, Viroqua, Bad Ax Co., Wis. Terms, one dollar and fifty cents in advance."

Under "deaths," we find in the first number, the following:

"In Viroqua, Wis., May 15, 1856, Aurelia Louisa, daughter of Hon. Wm. F. and Margaret Terhune, aged four years and two months.

"Little 'Spec,' as she was familiarly called, was a universal favorite in Viroqua, making friends alike by the sweetness of her disposition and the brilliancy of her intellect. Her head and her heart were older than her years; and could she have lived, a bright career would undoubtedly have been hers. But she died; for

'All that's brightest must fall.
The brightest, still the fleetest.'

"Death left its sweetest impress on her face; and standing by her coffin, and looking on her as she lay there; one of earth's loveliest flowers blighted; the following lines are brought to mind:

'I've seen death on the infant lie
So sweet, it seemed a bliss to die;
The smiling lip, the placid brow,
Seemed fan'd by some bright angel's wing;
And o'er the face a brighter glow
Than aught of earthly joy can bring!"

In another column is seen the following:

NOTICE.

Bad Ax, Bad Ax Co., Wis., May 23, 1856. Whereas, my wife, Christiana Orritta, has left my house and protection, without any just cause or provocation, this is, therefore, to warn all persons from harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will not pay any debts of her contracting, unless compelled by law and not then.

JAMES SIEDYIE

The first number of the paper has but one local; but that one was probably read by the patrons of the *Times* with a considerable degree of interest and indignation. It was in these words:

A VILLAIN IN CUSTODY.

Columbus B. Brown, who has for some time been attempting in a bungling manner to play the Daguerrean Artist in this place, was arrested at the Buckeye House, on the 29th of May, by officer John P. Delarne, from Janesville, Rock county, assisted by sheriff J. M. Rusk, of this place.

He was arrested on a warrant, for violating the person of Diana Blake, in October last, at

Fulton, Rock Co., Wis., where Mr. Brown was then keeping tavern. Mr. Brown's wife having been dead some three or four years, he had employed Miss Blake as his cook, and another lady had charge of the other departments, who happened to be absent for a night, when the foul outrage was committed. Miss Blake having been dangerously ill the next day, Mr. Brown carried her home to Pleasant Springs, Dane county, where she expired in a few hours, mortification having taken place, but not until she had given evidence under oath before the proper authority respecting Brown's barbarity.

Miss Blake was a beautiful young lady of only sixteen years, and has thus been brutally murdered by a miserable apology for a human being.

We are informed that Mr. Brown had previously committed a similar crime and when an officer undertook to arrest him, shot him in the arm. Mr. Brown has kept concealed a portion of the time since the last crime was committed. Justice though slow is sure, and the stone cutting artists of Waupun will no doubt ere long receive one more accession to their numbers. Mr. Brown at first refused the wrist ornaments but finally made a virtue of necessity and they were put on.

Officer Delarne is entitled to the thanks of the community for his perseverance in this case, in bringing an old and daring offender to justice. May he always have as good luck in furnishing recruits for the stone brigade at Waupun."

In the second issue of the paper, June 14, 1856, an account is given of the success in selling to the highest bidder the first copy printed of the *Times*. "The sale commenced" says the editor, "at half past 1 o'clock, on Tuesday last, and lasted about one hour, R. C. Bierce, Esq., acting as auctioneer. Mr. E. S. Fowler, of the firm of Keeler, Fowler & Co., was the successful man, his bid being $21. It is a very respectable sum, but not more than one-fifth of what it would have brought had the sale taken place on the last day of May, as first appointed; so say the knowing ones.

"Every printer who has started a newspaper," continues the editor "in a locality far removed from the great thoroughfares, and from the vicinity of machine shops, can readily appreciate the difficulties we encountered in attempting to get into operation at an appointed time."

The reader, doubtless, has noticed that in the extracts given from the *Western Times*. the two words forming the county are consolidated into one, thus, Badax. Before the issue of the third number of the paper, the editor was taken to task for this by the Richland county *Observer*. "The disfiguration," says the *Observer* "of the words Bad Ax by the compound, Badax, which strangers are apt to read Ba-dax is a sorry formation, and should be restored to the original." But Mr. Somerby did not see it in that light, and the "disfiguration," was continued in the *Western Times*.

No marriage notices appeared in the first issue of the paper; but, in the second, are the following:

"In this town, Viroqua, on Wednesday the 4th inst., by Rev. A. D. Low, Mr. Dennis Powers, of De Soto, to Miss Clara E. Hanchett, of this town. The usual fee of cake received. May they enjoy a continual honey moon.

"In this town, June 8, by Rev. Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Augustus Ray to Miss Sarah Good."

On the 26th of the next month, July, a citizen of "Badax" county, comes to the relief in the *Western Times*, of suffering humanity, actual and prospective, in this matter:

"Late Discovery.—To those that have children or ever expect to have. If you ever should have a child get anything in his or her nose, such as a bean, pea, gooseberry or anything of of the kind, just clap your mouth to theirs, and blow as hard as you can. The thing, whatever it may be, will fly out. Experience is the best teacher. Ira T. Hunter."

At the end of one year the "times" were getting so hard with the editor of the *Times*, that

he assayed to bring his derelect subscribers to "time" in this "time-ly" manner:

THE WESTERN TIMES

Will be discontinued after this number to all who have not paid in advance, or who have not paid for the past year, unless it is satisfactorily known to us, that it is their intention to renew their subscription immediately. "Times" are hard and we must have pay for the *Times*, or we cannot buy paper to print the *Times* on, and the *Times'* readers will get no *Times*. We shall give our readers a page more of reading matter when long evenings come again.

We have printed fifty-two numbers of the *Times*, while dozens of newspaper establishments have broke down under the pressure of hard "times," knocking at the door. With less patronage than any, we have lived through the year, and yet, expect to continue on, combatting error, and inspiring with more life and energy the progressive tendencies of the county, than all other institutions combined. We are duly thankful for past patronage and hope to merit its continuance.

Mr. Somerby continued the publication of the *Western Times*, until Jan. 6, 1858, when its name was changed to the *North Western Times*. R. C. Bierce was co-editor with Mr. Somerby, from Dec. 14, 1859, to Sept. 18, 1861; James Osgood, of De Soto, having for about a year previous, also been associate editor. On the 7th of May, 1862, the *North Western Times* appeared for the first time, as being printed in Vernon, instead of Badax county. The paper was continued until the 28th of June, 1865, when the office was wrecked by the terrible tornado of that year. A portion of the material was saved which Mr. Somerby disposed of, to Daniel B. Priest, J. M. Rusk and William Nelson, who issued, Aug. 23, 1865, the first number of the Vernon County *Censor*, as a continuation of the *Times*. The first issue was printed as volume 10, number 34. In their bow to the public, the three gentlemen just mentioned, have this to say:

The undersigned having purchased the old *Northwestern Times* office, propose, with the support of the citizens of Vernon county, to publish the Vernon County *Censor*. The *Censor* will be a continuation of the *Times*, and will be in politics true to the constitution, the Union and the upholding of the National authority against all rebellion or uprising, whether State or individual. We expect to act with the republican or union party on all political questions of the day. And while we so act, we shall feel free to condemn any course adopted by that party which we deem to be wrong; believing that it is every man's privilege to hold his own opinions and advocate them to the best of his ability, being responsible for the same.

The two senior members of the firm are well known to the people of this county, and all that it will be necessary for them to say is that they expect to advocate the principles they have heretofore been known to profess. The junior is a stranger among you, but he expects to show himself worthy of your confidence.

Financially, we believe the *Censor* to be in a fair condition. The subscription list is not as large as it should be, but what there is of it is profitable. The legal advertising is good, and will probably increase. But the local advertising in Viroqua and the smaller towns of the county is not what it should be. The job work is not large in amount. But, taking the business altogether, it will probably not unfavorably compare with any country paper in the State. And our friends should recollect that the better support they give us, the better paper we can afford to give them.

The military interest is pretty well represented in the firm. The senior member has seen service for his country, and the junior has served some also, and (though much against his will) has also drawn rations from the 'Confederacy.' But the least said about the said rations the better. Suffice it to say that in all the eighteen months stay among the chivalrous and high-spirited southrons, he did not witness

any over-feeding. But that is pretty well understood in the north now, and it is not necessary to give a new recital of what was seen there.

In reference to dealings with patrons, it will be our wish generally to do business, as far as possible, on a cash basis. This we deem to be the best for all concerned, and it will certainly be the best for us. The great bane of the newspaper business in the west is credit—long credit, which often runs to repudiation.

It will be understood that Messrs. Priest and Nelson will have the editorial management of the *Censor*. It will be their aim to give the people of the county a readable paper and one which shall be 'up to time' on all current news and questions of the day. With our editorial brethren we hope to keep on terms of amity, and if we shall ever have any differences with any of them, we shall endeavor to discuss all points in a courteous and friendly manner.

The paper we get out to-day must not be taken as a specimen. There are several necessary changes to make in the advertising department. We intend to take out of the paper all job type, although, of course, any advertiser may occupy all the space he pays for, but we shall not use flaming type. There are also several foreign advertisements to come out in a few weeks, which we shall replace with local paying advertising, or not at all.

When we get into our new room we shall have better facilities for doing work, and then we hope to receive calls from our patrons.

J. M. Rusk,
D. B. Priest,
William Nelson.

What became of Mr. Somerby, who first established the *Times*, which, as we have stated, afterward became the *Censor*, is seen by an article published in the last named paper, Nov. 20, 1867, entitled:

ABOUT TO MOVE.

Mr. J. A. Somerby, an old resident of this place [Viroqua] is selling out, preparatory, we understand, to moving to Faribault, Minn. Mr. Somerby is the man who first begun the publication of a newspaper in this county, under the title of the "*Western Times*." That was in June, 1856. The paper was published continuously, part of the time under the name of the "*Northwestern Times*," until the middle of August, 1865, when Mr. Somerby sold the establishment, and the new proprietors changed the name to that which this paper now bears. In the early days the struggle was hard to make a paper live in such a sparsely settled county as this one was, and Mr. Somerby has seen many disheartening days; but, ever cheerful and hopeful, he pressed on, part of the time under the discouragement of having to divide a business not more than enough for one paper, with a rival.

It is a feast to get hold of the old numbers of the "*Times*" published in the first years, and read of the old actions done, the old prophesies, fulfilled and unfulfilled, and the way the people felt on various subjects. In fact, it seems little less than mediæval reading, for the war has placed a great gulf between those times and now, which in ordinary times, it would take generations to make. The war settled so many questions; it made every one feel so differently on National issues; and it has made us all so fervently realize the benefits of our institutions, that it is no wonder all seems changed.

"There is no time like the old time;" and the departure of an old pioneer like Mr. Somerby recalls vividly the times past and gone. Let their memory be kindly cherished, for we are not likely soon to see warmer hearts, more ready sympathy, or heartier succor to the needy, than were common in those days.

Mr. Somerby goes from among us with the respect and kindly remembrance of his old friends. May his lot be prosperous and pleasant in his new home.

The *Censor* was continued under the same management which started it until Nov. 29

1865, when J. M. Rusk, on his election to the office of bank comptroller of Wisconsin, retired from the firm. The remaining proprietors upon his retirement published, in their paper, the following:

A CHANGE.

With this number of the *Censor*, Col. J. M. Rusk retires from his position as partner in the proprietorship of this office. The colonel having been elected to the office of bank comptroller of the State at the late election, this change is deemed expedient. The business of the office will be conducted as heretofore, and our patrons will not experience any change in our mutual transactions.

In parting with Col. Rusk, we feel it just to say that our relations with him have been of the most harmonious character. No differences or misunderstandings have occurred in our short period of doing business together, and in all probability never would have occurred if the time had been lengthened. He goes to a scene of wider usefulness and responsibility to which he has been chosen, and the people may well consider that they have elected an upright, honorable man to fill the office of bank comptroller for the next two years. Where Col. Rusk is best known he is best liked, and this was shown in the vote in different sections of the State. In towns where the members of his old regiment reside, he ran in nearly every case ahead of the remainder of the State ticket. This is a showing of which he may well be proud. He will be faithful to the trust committed to his charge, and will do the State and himself honor in his new position. * * *

DANIEL B. PRIEST.
WILLIAM NELSON.

The *Censor* was edited and published from this time until May, 1869, by Messrs. Priest and Nelson, when the former, with the issue of the 12th of that month, withdrew from the paper, leaving the latter as sole editor and proprietor. In leaving the paper, Mr. Priest had the following to say concerning the

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.

It is customary when an editor retires from a paper, for him to say words of farewell to his patrons. As I now retire from the *Censor*, I may be indulged while following the usual custom:

In August, 1865, Messrs. J. M. Rusk, William Nelson and myself bought the *Times* office from J. A. Somerby. At once changing the name of the paper to the one it now bears, we began the building up of an establishment which should be a credit to the county, and aimed at the issuing of a paper which should reflect no shame upon its patrons. To this end no labor has been spared, and with what success that labor has been crowned, we leave others to say. In our work, we have been cheered by the faithful and steady support of a large circle of warm friends, who have taken advantage of every occasion to help us, both with business and encouragement. To such we can only say, that their kindnesses have been received with with heartfelt thankfulness.

On his election to the office of bank comptroller, in November, 1865, Gen. J. M. Rusk retired from the *Censor*, and from that time until the present there has been no change in proprietorship. For more than three years and a half this paper has been published promptly on time, no mishap of any kind having delayed our issue beyond the Wednesday morning mails.

I also return thanks to my editorial friends in the State who have uniformly treated me with the greatest courtesy. In bidding them farewell from the *Censor*, it is only to resume my connection with them in a neighboring county. May our relations ever be as pleasant as they have been in the past.

In conclusion, I take pleasure in recommending to the friends and patrons of the *Censor*, my successor and former partner, Mr. William Nelson, to whom they are mainly indebted for

whatever they have found in the *Censor*, worthy of approval, as one whom I have tried and know is in every way worthy of their confidence and support; and with the earnest hope that the liberal patronage, confidence and support extended to this paper during the time I have been connected with it may be continued, and with best wishes for old friends, we bid them good-by. D. B. PRIEST.

In parting from Mr. Priest in a business capacity, it is with feelings of the warmest friendship, cemented by years of close business relationship. Our intercourse has always been marked by the utmost good will on either side. While losing his personal weight in the *Censor*, to which he has brought great support, I am glad to be able to say, that he does not retire from the editorial profession. May his days be prosperous ones.

To the patrons and friends of the *Censor*, I will say that, in future, this paper shall be equal to what it has been in the past. No change will be observed in its management. It will strive to be fully up to all the occurrences of the day, and to give a reasonable amount of reading every week, hoping for a continuance of the approval and support of my friends, I subscribe myself, WILLIAM NELSON.

On the 26th of May, 1869, the *Censor* published the following:

THE HON. D. B. PRIEST.

This gentleman has moved to Sparta, where he will keep his office of collector of internal revenue for this congressional district. He has also bought the Sparta *Eagle* office; and, assisted by Mr. Malcom Graham, son of Judge Graham, of Viroqua, he proposes to enlarge that paper to a nine column journal, and make other material improvements in it. From what we know of the new conductors, we anticipate a great improvement in the *Eagle* in every respect. The first number of the paper under its new auspicies will appear this week.

In the departure of Mr. Priest, this county suffers a loss which will not easily be repaired. He was one of the foremost men of the county in all things, and played his part well in every capacity which he undertook to fill. Of a friendly, open disposition, courteous manners, unselfish character, genial humor, and fine attainments, his like is not often met with. He has the warmest wishes of hundreds of friends in this county for his abundant prosperty.

Says the *Censor* of Sept. 7, 1870: "With feelings of sadness, we learn just as we go to press, of the death of Hon. D. B. Priest, of Sparta."

In 1875 Mr. Nelson admitted to a partnership Henry Casson, Jr., who had managed the paper since July, 1873, Mr. Nelson having assumed charge of the La Crosse *Republican-Leader* in March of that year. In January, 1877, his interest was purchased by Mr. Casson, and he became its editor and owner. The first issue of the paper under the management was on Jan. 17, 1877—volume 22, No. 3. The salutory of Mr. Casson was as follows:

TO THE PATRONS OF THE CENSOR.

On the 11th inst., the undersigned purchased of Hon. William Nelson the *Censor* office; and will continue the publication of the paper as heretofore. For the past three years the paper has been under our management, Mr. Nelson having been occupied in another field of labor. The past course of the paper may therefore be taken as a precursor of the future. So long as the republican party shall continue to make a history of freedom and justice to all men without respect to race or color, we shall advocate its cause and candidates with what little ability we may possess. When the grand old party ceases to do this, it will cease longer to exist. Our faith in the principles we have so long advocated is to-day stronger than ever, and we firmly believe that National prosperity and an undivided Republic depend upon the continued ascendancy of the republican party. Believing thus, we shall earnestly advocate its principles.

"We shall not at this time indulge in any promises of great things we propose to do, but simply say that it is our desire to make the

Censor a local paper; and to this end, we invite correspondence from every locality in the county.

"With 'malace toward none and charity for all,' and asking the kind indulgence of the public for any lack of ability, we subscribe ourself,

The public's obedient servant,

HENRY CASSON, JR."

Henry Casson, Jr., was born in Brownsville, Fayette Co., Penn., Dec. 13, 1843. He removed with his parents to Hennepin, Ill., in 1847, where he resided until 1860, removing in that year to Peoria. In 1856 he was apprenticed to the printing business in the office of the Hennepin *Tribune*. In 1865 he became one of the publishers of the Henry County *Chronicle*, at Cambridge, Ill., where he remained until 1867, when he received an appointment in the New Orleans Custom House, through the influence of the late Hon. Ebon Clark Ingersoll. He resigned in July, 1868, and purchased the *Citizen* office at Chillicothe, Ill., which he sold in 1872, and accepted a position on the Peoria *Daily Review*, where he continued until 1873, coming to Viroqua in July of that year, to take charge of the Vernon County *Censor*. In 1880, he was appointed by Supervisor Lottridge as clerk of the census district. He has always been a republican since he became of voting age, and has always taken an active interest in politics. He was married to Ethel Haughton, daughter of Rev. William Haughton, Nov. 7, 1874, and has one child, a son. As a newspaper writer, Mr. Casson holds a ready pen. His descriptive powers are much above the average. Who will say that the following picture is not true to life:

THE TRAMP.

Eighteen years ago, while serving his apprenticeship to the printing business, the writer of this was a little startled by hearing a terrific knock on the office door, made with a hickory walking-stick, and immediately afterwards, a man apparently about sixty years of age, opened the door and yelled:

"With the seat of my breeches all ragged and tore,
Here's Old G. W. Matchett from Baltimore!"

"Gimme a chaw of terbacker. Who's going to give me a quarter to help him over the bridge?" By which he meant that he wanted the wherewithal to buy a drink of whisky. Matchett staid around the town about a week, wrote articles for all who were kind enough to give him an occasional dime; and, finally, becoming restless, skipped out for St. Louis, a distance of 400 miles, on foot. He is constantly on the go—never riding, for the reason, as he says, that it hurts his corns to ride so fast! He has visited nearly every town in the United States on foot, and once took a trip to South America, which came near ending him, on account of his having to be in sight of water so long. Matchett once went into a fashionable restaurant in Savannah, Ga., and seating himself at one of the tables, ordered a sumptuous meal—about a dollar and seventy-five cents worth. He was terribly hungry, having been without food for several days, and he didn't have a cent. He finished his meal, and was walking out, when the proprietor, who judged from his personal appearance that he wasn't the kind of a chap to be eating high-priced meals, collared him and asked him if he wasn't going to pay his bill. "My initials are G. W., and I can't tell a lie," said Matchett. "I haven't got a cent." This angered the restaurant man, and he jerked a revolver from behind the counter and pointed it at Matchett. "Pay me for my meal!" shouted the boniface. "What you got there?" coolly asked Matchett. "I've got a revolver, and if you don't pay me I'll use it!" "Oh, a revolver, eh?—that's all. I was afraid it was a stomach pump!" Matchett got off with a kick. Matchett must be eighty years of age, but he still sticks to the "turf," as he calls it, and gets away with as much poor whisky as ever. He is a splendid scholar, an able writer, and a man

who is well qualified to fill a high position; and yet he will, ere long, fill a pauper's grave, "unwept, unhonored and unsung." It is true he will be missed, for the old man has warm friends among the craft who admire his talents, and are always glad to see him.

VIROQUA EXPOSITOR.

On the 28th of August, 1858, the Viroqua *Expositor* issued its first number, O. C. Smith, Jesse Smith and Justus Smith, proprietors—O. C. Smith, editor. The following was the editor's

SALUTATORY.

In appearing before the public as a journalist, we have but one apology to make, and that one is very general. When reason errs, reason corrects the error; so, should we be so unfortunate as to err in one point, we are willing, and would be any time, happy to make correction. But should we err in many respects, as others laboring in like capacity do, we are still more ready to rectify errors. And while we keep a steady eye upon the truth, even the great truths of the spirit of reform that is at present agitating the world, we hope every sentiment written by us may be candidly investigated before it be utterly denounced; that it be impartially weighed before the scale be turned against us.

"The great social, political and religious reforms have stirred the turbid waters of National corruption, whose vapors have poisoned the minds of the people, and are rushing with fury upon the temples of the despoilers of our happiness, liberties, and institutions; consuming the bigotry of Churches, the deceitfulness of statesmen, and is at present presenting to us the government—rites and ceremonies of the different branches of the Church in a wider and more equitable form.

"The political economy of our National fathers is also assuming an enviable standard among the Nations of the earth; and while all are working so harmonious together, there is left but little room for those who would falsify the truth of this spirit of progress or throw a stumbling-stone beneath its wheel.

"While we endeavor to lend a helping hand to every movement that has for its object the elevation of the character of mankind, we will steadily endeavor to push on the western reform by advocating the cause of the agriculturist, mechanic, educator, and every member of the great school of religious civilization of the western world. Our pen and midnight lamp shall be agents in recording and testifying to the busy scenes of our prosperous county, so long as the oxen shall low upon the plow-beam, the horse be muzzled in the cornfield, the grating saw and screeching plane of the mechanic keep music to the the touch of our pen, or the merchant's goods hang outside the door to brighten the face of business.

"We hope in the prosecution of our new duty to always be found upon the side of justice, wooing not the smiles of friends, or depreciating the displeasures of foes. Our aim is beyond personal aggrandizement, but the character of mankind in all its capabilities will receive our attention. The aged will be honored, the middle-aged respected, and the youth of our country encouraged.

"We have naught to promise our readers in the publication of our sheet, save that as night is opposite of day, and as right is the opposite of wrong, our soul detests the thought of giving to the fathers of families and especially to the youth of our land, a fabric of fictitious novellettes, that will destroy their usefulness, and choke the moral sensibilities of the giant mind in embryo, thereby plunging them into the vortex of temptation.

"Now, as we enter upon the first number and volume of our paper, we hope you may all have a pleasant and profitable journey with us to the end of the year."

In some respects, this salutation is unique. On the whole, its peculiarities of diction and thought are of a most unusual cast. As the greeting of an editor to the public in assuming

the responsibilities of editorship, it is certainly, a novelty.

With the issue of November 6, following, G. W. Wolfe, became associate with O. C. Smith, in editing the *Expositor*. He launches his bark upon the sea of journalism, with "A Word Introductory;" but that "Word" extended over a column in length. This was his peroration :

"Residents of Viroqua and Bad Ax county, 'grow not weary in well doing,' but push along the ball of improvement; throw aside your sectional strife, for 'a house divided against itself cannot stand;' put forth all your energies toward accomplishing and sustaining a high reputation for your county, and you will not only merit, but receive, a rich reward for posterity." But, on the 7th of May, 1859, Mr. Wolfe gave notice that with that issue of the paper, his connection with the *Expositor* ceased. The proprietors, on the 11th of December, 1858. were O. C. Smith, A. F. Smith and Justus Smith ; on the 10th of April this was changed to O. C. and J. Smith.

The name of the paper was changed to the Viroqua *Expositor* and Bad Ax *Reporter*, Aug. 27, 1859, and in the next issue, September 3, O. C. and J. Smith appeared as both editors and proprietors. The Bad Ax *Reporter* was subsequently dropped. Afterward, G. W. Wolfe again became editor ; but the latter died on the 19th of October, 1862, when the *Expositor* paid the fellowing graceful tribute to his memory :

"Died, on Sunday morning last, very suddenly, of apoplexy, G. W. Wolfe, Esq., of this village.

"Mr. Wolfe was just emerging into the prime of life, with an inviting prospect of a useful and honorable future before him. He was near twenty-seven years of age, and was in apparent good health up to the hour of his death. He had been attacked twice before with apoplexy, from which he soon recovered, and it was thought by many permanently, but every moment of life is uncertain. He arose in the morning apparently in good health, drove some cattle from his garden, and returned to the house after an absence of but a few moments, and said he was getting blind. He sat on the side of his bed but a moment when he went into convulsions from the effects of the disease. Before he fully recovered from the attack, he was again convulsed, and so it was repeated the fourth time, and he was dead !

"The announcement of his sudden death startled the community, and they hurried to the house of mourning, but human skill was unavailing; he has trodden the dark path through the valley and shadow of death, and leaves behind him an affectionate wife and very many relatives and friends who mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate husband, a dutiful and amiable son, a loving brother, and a devoted and faithful friend. We deeply sympathize with all who are called to mourn over the loss of him whom the gifts of earth can never replace.

"The deceased was born in Athens Co., Ohio, was early educated and learned the printing business in his native county. He was editor of this paper for the past year, and was a careful and vigorous writer, as all who read must know.

"He was buried in the village church-yard on Monday last, at 3 o'clock, with Masonic honors."

Mr. Wolfe was succeeded by O. C. Smith as editor. The *Expositor* was finally merged into the *Northwestern Times*, the materials having been purchased by J. A. Somerby, of the county treasurer, to whom they had been sold, by Mr. Smith, as appears by the following:

"To the subscribers of the *Expositor*. Through the courtesy of the *Times*' editor, I am permitted to say that I have disposed of all my right, title and interest, in the office of the *Expositor*, and the same now rests in James Lowrie, Esq., county treasurer, who has agreed to complete all my contracts for subscription to

the *Expositor*. All those who have paid for subscription will receive a paper to the end of the time for which they have paid, exclusive of the time for which the paper has been stopped.

O. C. SMITH."

Thereupon the Northwestern *Times* published the following

NOTICE.

"Having purchased of James Lowrie, the *Expositor* printing office, and the subscription list and all the accounts due to the old proprietor of said office for advertising and subscriptions, * * * I wish to give the following notice:

"That the *Northwestern Times* newspaper will be enlarged to a seven column sheet, with pages two inches longer than those of the *Expositor* some time during the month of July, and that the price will be increased to $1 50 per annum. * * *

J. A. SOMERBY.

VIROQUA, July 1, 1863."

But the *Times* was not enlarged until the issue of Aug. 5, 1863. For a while in 1861, the *Expositor* was published as a semi-weekly.

OTHER PAPERS.

In 1871 T. C. Medary commenced the publication of the De Soto *Republican*, and continued it for one year, when he removed to Lansing, where he published a paper. He was an able writer.

In 1872 the De Soto *Leader* was established. C. L. Ingersoll moved the material from Lansing, Iowa, across the river on the ice, and was the founder. He conducted the paper for a time, then sold it to B. J. Castle. Ingersoll was a merchant there, and is still a resident.

B. J. Castle ran the paper for several years, then sold out and removed to Prairie du Chien, where he was proprietor of the *Union* for some time. He has since moved to Black River Falls, where he still makes his home. He is publishing a paper there; but, for the past few years, has held a clerkship in one of the State departments at Madison.

Succeeding Castle in charge of the *Leader*, came G. L. Miller, a lawyer. He still owns the material, although publication has been suspended. Others were at times connected with the paper, but merely temporarily.

In 1872 A. L. Ankeny began in Viroqua, the publication of the Wisconsin *Independent*, continuing it until January, 1876, when he removed to Black River Falls. In August, 1875, the Viroqua *Vidette* was started by Jacob Tenney and Hartwell Allen. At the end of three months, Mr. Tenney retired, leaving Mr. Allen sole proprietor. The *Vidette* closed its career Nov. 11, 1876. There was now but one paper published in the county, the Vernon County *Censor*.

VERNON COUNTY HERALD.

The first number of the Vernon County *Herald* was issued at Viroqua, Feb. 11, 1878, by Jacob Tenney and Hiram Moody, editors and proprietors. Its platform of principles is given to its readers in the following salutatory:

"In presenting to the people the first number of the *Herald*, perhaps it is proper to announce some of the principles that will be advocated in its columns. We believe that the time has come when a change should be made in the National administration and the policy pursued by the government, and so believing, we shall use whatever influence we may command to bring about such change. The government for many years has been under the control of the wealthy bond-holders, corporations and partisan office-holders, who have influenced legislation for their selfish purposes, to the neglect of the welfare of a large majority of the people.

"The industries of the country have been languishing and dying, and millions of industrious people have been suffering from the effects of enforced idleness, while the bond-holder has been adding to his hoarded wealth. Taxation has been unequal, working injustice to a large class of the people. The Nation has

become subject to the rule of the money power and must seek deliverance through the ballot box. The principles advanced by the greenback party, should they prevail, will, we believe, relieve the people of much of the distress that has been caused by a false policy and misrule."

The terms of the *Herald* were $1.50 a year. In the first number, the editors seem to have had some idea that the publication of their paper would stir up animosities. They consoled themselves in this way: "A man cannot expect to publish a newspaper and escape having some enemies. Jesus Christ and George Washington had enemies, and we don't pretend to be better than either of them. In fact, we are willing to admit that they possessed some virtues that we cannot claim." The *Herald* was discontinued in the early part of August, 1880.

VERNON COUNTY LEADER.

The first number of the Vernon county *Leader* was issued Aug. 20, 1880, by D. W. C. Wilson, as editor and proprietor, he having purchased the presses, printing material and fixtures of the Vernon county *Herald*. But the *Leader* is not in any respect a continuation of the *Herald*. "From our knowledge of Vernon county," says Mr. Wilson, in his salutatory, "we feel confident that its broad and fertile area presents an inviting field for newspaper enterprise, and that its industrious, intelligent and enterprising people will award to another paper, the support its merits, as a local newspaper shall justly deserve. With the advent of railroad facilities, of which Vernon county has so long been deprived, the most casual observer cannot fail to note a new and healthy activity in all branches of business, and a corresponding development of the vast resources of one of the best counties of the State.

"To aid and encourage this new activity," continues the editor, "and a full development of the resources of the county, as well as to chronicle the current events transpiring around us, will be our aim, hoping thereby to furnish such a paper as will be felt to be a necessity in every household within its borders. Politically, the *Leader* will be democratic, giving its hearty and unqualified support to the candidates of the party already in the field, and such local candidates as may from time to time be selected as its standard bearers.

"While we shall be firm and uncompromising," concludes Mr. Wilson, "in support of the principles and the candidates of the democratic party, we shall cheerfully accord to those opposed to us politically, the same degree of honesty and consistency we ask for ourselves and for those politically in accord with us, and shall treat all opponents with the same degree of courtesy and fairness that we ask for ourselves, appealing to the reason and good judgment of men, rather than to their passions or their prejudices. We have come to Vernon county to stay, and proudly throw our banner to the breeze, soliciting such patronage, and such only, as our conduct and efficiency shall justly merit."

The *Leader* is still published and is an ably conducted paper. There are, indeed, indications of fun—of genuine humor—in some of Wilson's editorials that stamp him as a genius in that line. It will be difficult to find anything more excessively humorous in all the range of American newspaper editorials than the following from his pen, in the issue of Aug. 27, 1880:

"A party has been camping out just on the outskirts of the pleasant little village of Melvina, during a portion of last week, and most of this. The party consisted of the Rev. L. W. Brigham, the genial and popular Universalist clergyman of La Crosse, his wife and son, Miss Hammond, Miss Dudley and Miss Kingsley, of that city, A. Enny and wife, 'By' Wright (the genial and popular conductor of the Viroqua branch) and wife, and Mrs. A. Ellis, of Sparta.

"They had a great deal of fun and a pleasant time generally; but they made a serious mistake when they let Wright into the party. They only took one car load of provisions, thinking

that would be sufficient for a week's camping. The moment 'By' was turned loose among the edibles, they discovered their mistake. The second day's sun went down upon as hungry a crowd as ever sought shelter of a wood, and Elder Brigham and Enny had to start out on a foraging expedition. Chickens and turkeys were roosting high; as they seemed instinctively to dread that crowd. Over hills and through valleys, Enny and the elder plodded nearly all night long, and just at peep of day, come 'the drop' on a couple of old geese, which had the appearance of having stole out under the railing when Noah's shallop was scooting over this portion of the creation. These, they brought into camp.

"Hunger and weariness had done its work upon all the inmates of the camp except Wright; and all save him were in the tightly clasped arms of

'Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep!'

or words to that effect. 'By' was on picket duty; and no sooner did he get sight of the geese, than he claimed the high prerogative of making a breakfast of them, as a compensation for watching over the sleepers all night. Enny and the elder were too nearly exhausted to enter into a muscular contest, and sank down exhausted. The sleepers slept on; and when they awoke, a few scattering feathers were all that told the story of the lost geese, while 'By' sat by the camp-fire looking as portly as an alderman, and indulging in a sardonic smile as he looked upon the sunken faces of the starving party.

"But for the kind hospitality of Capt. Hunt, who sent to camp a barrel of pork and a load of potatoes, the bleaching bones of the whole party, Wright excepted, would have been whitening beneath the scorching rays of an August sun. Such conduct caused unpleasantness; and Tuesday's afternoon train took Wright on board, after which, the rest of the party went to work and filled up sufficiently to make their clothes fit, and had several days of genuine fun. Elder Brigham says, it is the last time he will ever undertake to camp out with 'By' Wright, unless he can first get a contract with the United States government to furnish rations, and a company of regulars to stand guard over them between meals. And still, on general principles, Wright isn't a bad fellow."

De Witt Clinton Wilson was born in Wakeman, Huron Co., Ohio, May 24, 1827. His parents were James Wilson and Amarilla White Wilson, who were Connecticut people. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the common schools of his town. He afterward attended the Norwalk Seminary one year, and the two succeeding years at Oberlin College, having gone through the Freshman and Sophomore years. He left school at twenty years of age, going to Indiana, and subsequently returning to his native State. At twenty-one, Mr. Wilson was married at Wakeman to Jane McCumber, of that place. Remaining there two years in farming his father's place, he then moved to McDonough Co., Ill., going into a railroad office, on the Quincy division of the C. B. & Q., railroad, where he remained three years. In consequence of ill health, he then removed to Sparta, Monroe Co., Wis., where he soon recovered,—he having at that time a tract of land near by.

Mr. Wilson occupied his land nearly a year. This was in 1859. The next year he moved into Sparta, when he was elected a justice of the peace, the jurisdiction of the office being then co-extensive with the county. His official business was large—more lucrative than any county office of Monroe county. The war coming on, he was called upon to go abroad through the counties of Monroe, Jackson, Vernon and La Crosse, to make war speeches. In October, 1861, entered the service as first lieutenant of company D, 18th Wisconsin regiment, G. S. Alban, colonel. Lieut. Wilson was in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, where he was taken prisoner, remaining such for seven months, when he was exchanged, and returned

to his company and regiment, where he remained until March, 1863, when he was made captain of company A, of the 9th Louisiana (colored) regiment, afterwards changed to the United States 47th (colored) regiment.

Capt. Wilson remained with the 47th until Aug. 18, 1864, when he resigned. During the time of his connection with that regiment he commanded the same at the battle of Yazoo City, in connection with Col. Ransom of the 11th Illinois. This was a very severe conflict, resulting in driving the rebels out of the city, and in rescuing Col. Ransom's regiment which had been surrounded and shut up in a fort.

Capt. Wilson reached his home at Sparta about the 1st of September, 1864. The coming winter he was chosen assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Wisconsin Senate. The following winter he represented Monroe Co., Wis., in the Assembly, and the winters of 1867 and 1868 he represented the ninth senatorial district of his State, composed of the counties of Monroe, Juneau and Adams.

Before this date Capt. Wilson had been a regular writer for the Sparta *Eagle*. Before leaving the Senate, he was employed by the Milwaukee *Sentinel* to travel as their traveling correspondent during the year 1869. At the end of that time, he purchased one-half of the Sparta *Eagle*, which paper he continued to run with two different partners; and in 1872, purchased the entire office, changing the name of the paper to the Monroe County *Republican*, making it an independent democratic sheet. That paper he edited until 1878, when he sold it to F. A. Brown, and went to Montevideo, Chippewa Co., Minn., where he established the Chippewa County *Leader*, which he sold on account of his wife's sickness, in 1879.

Capt. Wilson lost his first wife in 1872, at Sparta. He afterward married, in 1873, the widow of Lute A. Taylor, who died in 1880.

After the death of his second wife, Capt. Wilson came to Viroqua and purchased, as already stated the materials of the *Herald*, and started the Vernon County *Leader*. Mr. Wilson has three children—Mrs. Mary Booth, of Wakeman, Ohio; James A. Wilson, telegraph operator,, at Sparta, Wis.; and Miss Frank Wilson, now at school, at that place. "Capt. DeWitt C. Wilson, editor of the Vernon County *Leader*," says the Milwaukee *Sunday Telegraph*, of Aug. 26, 1883, "is one of the ablest and clearest political writers and speakers in the State. His rhetoric is always good; and his ideas are clear, and his reasoning pointed and able."

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE GREAT TORNADO.

Nearly forty years have elapsed since the first white American settler located within the limits of what is now Vernon county. From that date to the present time, there has never been an event of such magnitude—an occurrence so destructive and far-reaching in its results—within the boundaries of the county, as the great tornado of June 28, 1865. It was a great and overshadowing calamity—particularly to the village of Viroqua. It is eighteen years and past, since "death rode upon that sulphury siroc," but there are numbers still living who have a vivid recollection of the sudden and awful visitation! Their recitals of what they saw convey to the reader in graphic language the terrors of that never to be forgotten day.

It is easy to draw from the "Recollections" which follows, an outline of the whole picture. It is this: Suddenly there came on, with little or no warning, a horrible screeching sound; and, to the westward, as the awe-stricken farmer, a few miles west of Viroqua, looked out upon the scene, there came, as if "upon the lightning's wing," an immense, rolling, whirling, frightfully dark-looking cloud; and the next instant, almost, a crash! The wind swept everything in its path along the line between townships 12 and 13, through Viroqua, and a number of miles to the east of the village. In that path, was death and dire destruction such as has seldom been witnessed, in so narrow a space, on this earth. But we let the spectators now tell their stories; yet the half can never be told. We begin, however, with the cotemporaneous account of an editor.

I.—BRICK POMEROY'S REPORT, JULY, 1865.

Thursday afternoon we received notice that on Wednesday a storm of wind had swept over a portion of the village of Viroqua, the county-seat of Vernon county, and that several were killed, a large number wounded, and that a large portion of the village was destroyed. At half past six in the afternoon, we started by team, drove to the "Mills" on Coon creek, put up with Andrew Anderson for the night, reaching Viroqua at 9 on Friday morning, arriving home Friday afternoon, having in twenty-three hours driven seventy miles and witnessed the most terrible effects of wind we ever saw in this country, the particulars of which we hasten to lay before our readers.

The county of Vernon, until lately Bad Ax, adjoins La Crosse county on the south and southeast. Viroqua, distant thirty-five miles from La Crosse, is the county-seat and contains about 1000 inhabitants. It is a pleasant inland village, on high table land in the center of a valuable farming district largely under cultivation. The village has always been a quiet, steadily prospering place. The buildings not large but in good taste and repair, and especially in the south part of the place, characterized by an air of ease and refinement desirable to behold.

At 4 o'clock (on the afternoon of June 28, 1865) black clouds rolling heavily in the sky betokened a storm. In a few moments the wind sprang up, and almost immediately could

be seen coming from the *northeast* a cloud of wind, rolling at times close to the earth—dust, sticks, etc., filling the air. At the same time, there appeared another cloud of like nature, coming directly toward the village from the *west*. The first current was passing to the southwest, and the points or ends met half a mile west of the village, when it seemed as if a mighty strife was going on between millions of invisible spirits in the two currents. People ran for their houses in terror—the whirlwind, with a shriek and a howl, kept on its *eastward* course, the larger current turning the smaller one back, the two going on together in their work of destruction. In two minutes its fury was spent at Viroqua, and the southern portion of the place (and the most beautiful) was made a scene of wilder and more terrible devastation than we ever witnessed before.

The first house struck was that of William Vought, which was totally destroyed. Before attempting to depict scenes or itemize incidents we give a list of the killed: J. G. Barstow and wife, whose house was crushed like an eggshell and themselves so injured that they both died in an hour. A three-year-old child of H. G. Weeden was found dead in the ruins of his house, which was demolished. Lydia Gillett was killed while shutting a door. The house was carried some distance and dashed to fragments. The wife of Dr. Dean and her daughter, Mrs. Moon, were killed; Mr. Dean, seriously injured. Eliza Derby, a girl twelve years old, was killed; so, also, two children of James Daniels; two children of James Cook; one child of Nelson Rhodes, and Mrs. Good, killed and mutilated.

The following were severely wounded: Mr. and Mrs. Drake and son, Phineas. Mr. Drake is eighty-four, his wife seventy-six, and Phineas thirty-five years of age. We doubt if either of the three are now alive. Mrs. Decker had her thigh broken. John Gardner's wife was seriously injured. A servant girl working for W S. Purdy was fatally injured. J. M. Bennett had his leg broken. Mrs. J. Buckley was seriously hurt; Dr. Dean badly injured; also Dr. Weeden and wife. Peter Hays, wife and four children were badly wounded. Mrs. W. S. S. White, daughter and grandchild, fatally injured. O. C. Smith was seriously injured; J. Dawson, badly hurt. Besides these there are others wounded, but their names we could not learn in the limited time set apart for this purpose. Dr. Tinker informed us that over 100 persons were hurt, forty of whom are seriously injured and about twelve of whom must soon die. In the school house there were twenty-four children and the teacher. Eight children were killed and all more or less cut, bruised or mangled.

Twenty-six houses and barns were completely demolished, and about forty buildings, more or less injured. Below we give a list of buildings destroyed within easy reach of a man's voice:

William Vought, house destroyed.

Mr. Russell, house destroyed.

H. Green, house and two barns. No one living in the house. C. F. Gillett, house destroyed; young lady killed.

John Gardner, house destroyed; wife seriously injured.

W. S. Purdy, house destroyed.

D. Ouston, house and blacksmith shop destroyed.

J. Buckley, house and shop destroyed.

Dr. Dean, house destroyed.

J. M. Bennett, house and barn destroyed.

John Barstow, house destroyed.

Dr. Weeden, house and barn destroyed.

W. S. S. White, house and barn destroyed.

O. C. Smith, house unroofed and otherwise injured.

R. C. Bierce, house and barn destroyed.

John Everett, house unroofed and barn destroyed.

J. A. Somerby, house, including printing office, destroyed.

Court house unroofed.

N. C. Nichols, store demolished.

Col. Jeremiah M. Rusk's house somewhat injured.

Dr. Rusk's house injured and barn destroyed.

O. J. Stillwell, barn destroyed and house slightly injured.

J. Dawson, dwelling destroyed and store badly injured.

C. W. Pitcher, house injured.

D. B. Priest, storehouse ruined; occupied by Mr. Lindley, whose goods were injured and himself badly hurt.

Masonic Lodge destroyed.

Dr. Tinker, kitchen, woodshed and barn destroyed.

Methodist Episcopal Church entirely demolished.

W. F. Terhune, barn and house injured.

John Cummings, house destroyed.

Messrs. Russell, Riley, Gillett, Bennett, Purdy, Barstow, W. S. S. White and O. C. Smith, were occupying rented premises; all the others were occupying their own buildings. Mr. Fretwell, Mr. Lindley, Mr. Jones, Levi Garnes, A. R. Burrell, W. F. White, J. H. Tate, H. Trowbridge and others had their houses more or less injured. Fences and outhouses, orchards and shrubbery were swept away on the route, and a large number of horses, cattle and hogs destroyed.

Those who have not witnessed this scene of devastation can form no idea of the terrible power of the whirlwind. The ground is torn as if plowed, Huge rocks ten feet square were hurled a distance of forty rods. Dwellings were razed to the ground, and hurled rods away. Huge oak trees were twisted from stumps like reeds. Timbers sixteen inches square and sixty feet long were hurled through the air as though they were feathers. The scene of desolation is beyond description. The ground over which the whirlwind passed looks as if a mighty stream of water had carried floodwood over it, Houses, outhouses, trees, shrubs, fences, etc., were swept away as if God had, in his anger, rubbed his hand over the spot. Houses were lifted a hundred feet into the air; horses were whisked off like swallows; rocks were broken down like dry bread!

The dwelling of John Gardner, a large two story frame house, was whirled up into the air. An oak tree, standing near by, sixty feet from the ground to its top, was stripped of every leaf, and resembles a dead tree. A gentleman saw from a lower part of the town, out of the course of the storm, the house of Gardner rise in the air till its lower part was far above the top of the oak tree. It came down, the corner struck in the garden some distance from its foundation. It was whirled up again higher than before, and came down the second time, striking on the roof, and dashing the building to atoms. A large portion of the ruins were carried away. Mrs. Gardner was in the house all the time with an infant in her arms. She was taken from the ruins badly injured, *but the child was unhurt!*

Mr. Bennett's fine house was blown in every direction. Some of the ruins fell in the cellar. Mr. Bennett was hurled in a corner of the cellar. A little girl was blown in beside him. A few seconds after a horse was blown in upon him, breaking Mr. Bennett's leg. The horse struggled to get up but could not; and lest, in struggling, it might kill Mr. Bennett and the little girl, he tried to get a knife from his pocket with which to cut the throat of the animal and so quiet him, when two more horses were hurled in upon him. He was got out with a leg badly broken. The little girl was badly injured. When the blow began a man had just started from a store to go home with his team and lumber wagon. He was whirled from his wagon, falling in the brush thirty rods south. The wagon box has not been found. The running gears were broken and scattered in every direction. The horses were the ones thrown in upon Mr. Bennett.

Herman Greeve lost a splendid house and two large barns. One of the barns was fitted up for holding wheat, with a capacity of 50,000

Philip Bauffeur

bushels. It was a large, heavy, "Pennsylvania" barn, on a stone foundation. The barn was whirled to atoms. The stone and mortar underpinning, two feet thick and five feet deep, was torn out. $1,000 dollars worth of wool was blown into the trees for miles. A large threshing machine was torn to fragments; bolts, cylinder teeth, iron and wood work being torn apart and whirled no one knows where. His loss is about $16,000.

Mr Gillett's family took refuge in a cellar. Lydia Gillett, aged twenty, ran up stairs to shut a door. In an instant the house was dashed into the woods and demolished. Miss Gillett was found dying in a plowed field. Those in the cellar escaped with slight bruises.

Mr. Barstow's residence has disappeared. Himself and wife were killed. Mr. and Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Barstow's parents, he aged eighty-four, and she seventy-six, were found near by so badly bruised we doubt if they are alive now. Their son, Phineas Drake, was sawing wood for Col. Bierce, and was found twenty rods from the remains of the wood pile, in a plowed field, so badly injured he cannot survive.

Col. Bierce was at his office in the north end of the town. Mrs. Bierce was ironing when the storm came up. The house and barn a few rods east were lifted into the air, sucked together, demolishing both buildings, and fairly whirled no one knows where. Fire from the stove caught in the hay in the barn. The upper and ground floors of the house were carried across the street, and between the two Mrs. Bierce was found, badly bruised and insensible, and the broken timbers nearly saturated with blood. She was got out and will probably live. Col. Bierce had the handsomest residence in the village. His house was a beautiful model, well furnished. A splendid yard filled with flowers; a large garden filled with choice fruit, grape arbors, etc., now looks as though it had been the bed of an Alpine torrent. The house, barn, fences, trees; all were torn up and scattered far and wide.

Dr. Tinker lost a portion of his house, but saved himself and family. He lost a valuable horse. His house was in the edge of the whirl. A boy ten years old was rolled past in the street; he ran out and saved his life. After administering to the sufferers in the village till nearly dark, he left Dr. Rusk to attend to village calls, and working all night within three miles of the place had cared for thirty-two wounded, some of them terribly and fatally, when sunrise came next morning.

Dr. Weeden lost a fine house and large barn stored full of tobacco. A lumber wagon was lifted from the front of Judge Terhune's barn and set down uninjured behind it. A buggy in the barn was sucked through the roof and dashed to pieces against the ground near by. A fence board from a garden fence forty rods away was driven into Judge Terhune's house, one end of the board protruding about five feet into the parlor through the ceiling. A pitch fork was carried a half a mile and the end of the handle driven into an oak stump, where it was found.

The store of Mr. Nichols disappeared so quick no one saw it go, and $5,000 worth of goods are not to be found. A mill pond six miles east of Viroqua was emptied of logs and water, as the wind dipped in the pond. The mill is gone; the logs were whirled over the country. The store of D. B. Priest, in the upper part of which was a fine Masonic lodge room, was churned up and down, and so racked and torn that no one dare enter it. Horses, cows, dogs, sheep, hogs, cats, fowls, men, women and children were hurled to great distances. Dead cattle and other stock are to be found all about. Fragments, such as broken furniture, torn clothes, books, papers, contents of book cases, wardrobes and libraries, are being brought in from the country, so torn and broken as to be worthless and unclaimable.

Log chains, harnesses, dead hogs, pieces of furniture, broken plows and other agricultural implements, feather beds badly ripped, picket fences, rails, fence posts, door frames and barn timbers, dead chickens, calves, sheep, cats, and all the things imaginable hang in the tops of trees, bushes, etc. The scene is one which beggars description, and one which was never equalled in this country. The air was filled with fragments of houses, entire outhouses, broken timbers, log chains, rocks, cellar walls, stoves, fanning mills, hoes, plows, wagons and horses. People half a mile away say the cloud of ruin which swept on east was grand, terrible, awful and indescribably terrific.

J. A. Somerby had his dwelling blown away; his printing office "pied", and the contents of a book store distributed for miles. The house of Col. Rusk was in the edge of the whirl; the front of the house was torn out and all the furniture in the room carried miles away. People ran wild with terror. Men, women and children, horses and cattle were nearly frightened to death. The terror was indescribable. People thought death and the final destruction of the earth had come, and gave themselves up for lost. Had it been in the night time, imagination can only dwell on the scenes of horror the darkness would have augmented. There was neither rain, thunder or lightning at the time, though it rained the night following. 150 persons are left wounded and *entirely destitute.*

Many of the houses could be hauled off in a handcart, so badly were buildings and contents torn to pieces. The labor of years was annihilated in two minutes, and everything was swept from many who must have relief or die. Tate's Hall has been made into a hospital where several are being cared for by the good citizens of the place. Nearly every house in town has one or more wounded therein, some more or less injured.

Fourteen miles the storm extended, destroying everything before it. Farm houses, barns, school houses, fences, cattle, crops, trees, etc., etc., all being swept away from spots as the clouds rose and fell from the earth.

II. STATEMENT OF DR. E. W. TINKER.

I was on the main street of Viroqua when the storm first appeared. There was first an appearance of a great mass of rubbish in the air coming from the northeast, although where I stood everything was calm and quiet; then there came a roaring of wind from the west. The two currents appeared to have met a little west of the village. I went immediately to my house, east one block from the street, as I felt considerable alarm owing to the unusual appearance and noise in the air. As I reached home the fences and other material were flying about me, caused by the current from the northeast. I ran into the house, where I found my wife and my married daughter, with her two children. I hurried them into the cellar as quickly as possible. My wife ran back to shut the kitchen door, which had blown open. Just as she came back out of the kitchen into the hall, my daughter said: "Pa, your kitchen has blown away!" I paid little attention to the kitchen, but hurried my daughter into the cellar. I then ran back and met Mrs. Tinker and got her about half way down the cellar steps, when I heard a child cry on the porch. I rushed up, found the hall door blown open, and a little boy on the veranda. He was crying and asked if he could come in. I took him by the hand and led him into the house; how the little fellow came there he could never tell; but the last he remembered he was at the place where Goodell's livery stable now stands, nearly a block away. By this time, the tornado was over, and I went out of the house, and the rest of the family came out of the cellar. Mrs. Tinker, on looking out where the kitchen had been, exclaimed: "Oh, the barn is gone, and the horses are killed!" I answered; "I am inclined to

think it has, and the kitchen, too." One of my horses was so badly injured that I had him shot. Mine was the most northerly house injured—the the damage being south of me. I told my black servant to kill the horse that was injured, while I started immediately for my daughter's—Mrs. John R. Casson—and to see who of my neighbors were injured. I met my daughter on the way, with hair dishevelled and covered with mud, but not injured. I then went on toward Col. Bierce's residence, when I met Mr. Casson and Mr. Lowrey and some others carrying Mrs. Bierce on a litter, they supposing her to be dead. I directed that she be taken into Mr. Trowbridge's near by, where I dressed her wounds, as she was not dead.

Dr. Dean and Dr. Weeden were both badly hurt, this left Dr. Rusk and myself to attend to the wounded. There was, of course, an immediate rush. Before I had Mrs. Bierce's wounds dressed more than a dozen were after me. I then was busy until dark attending to the wounded—bruises, cuts and fractures, some mortal, others very serious and some slight. Before the wounded in the village had all been cared for, the people began to come in from the country, imploring me to go and look after their wounded. This induced me to leave as soon as I could and leave those who were injured in the village in the care of Dr. Rusk. I traveled all night within three miles of town. I went east first to the school house three-fourths of a mile distant, where I found two, Mrs. Good, with a broken thigh, and her daughter-in-law. Mrs. Good survived, but her daughter-in-law soon died. Then I went to Mr. Cook's, beyond the school house about one mile, where I found two children dead that had been killed at the school house, and two persons severely wounded; then to Mr. Sands', about a mile from Mr. Cook's; there I found two children dead, also killed at the school house, and one or two wounded. From there I went to Mr. Derby's, where I found one dead and others injured. The next place visited was at Mr. Morley's, where there was one wounded.

III.—ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY DR. W. C. WILSON, 1880.

The great tornado came on the 28th day of June, and at a time when nature had assumed her most bewitching attitude, and was dressed in her most gorgeous robes of summer verdure. Little did any of its (Viroqua's) inhabitants apprehend that before the close of that eventful day, the angry elements, at the beck of an invisible power, would lay in waste the fairest portion of the village, strewing its streets with bruised and mangled victims of its fierce rapacity, and weave a funeral pall for seventeen of its helpless citizens.

About 4 o'clock of the fatal day, dark and portentous clouds were being marshalled beneath the dome of Heaven's high arch, as though the invisible spirits in the realms of space were about to contend with each other for the mastery. To the westward, black clouds marched and countermarched, with noticeable and alarming rapidity. To the eastward a similar phenomena was observed, not unlike the movement of two vast armies manœuvering for advantageous positions, pending a bloody conflict. At length they came nearer, and still nearer to each other, until they met in deadly embrace, a short distance above the western limits of the village of Viroqua.

The western division of the contending forces seemed the stronger of the two, and back to the eastward hurled their antagonists with tremendous and death-dealing force. On and on came the victorious power, crushing buildings in its maddened march, and ever and anon demanding a human life, to satiate its thirst for conquest. When its savage fury had been spent a scene of horror, such as mortals seldom behold, presented itself to the terror-stricken survivors of the great disaster. Seventeen persons were killed, including those who died soon after, as the result of the injuries they had received.

Many buildings were demolished, including private residences, stores, barns, and the M. E. church, which occupied the site of their present place of worship. Nearly 200 people were left houseless as the result of the great tornado, many of whom lost every vestige of their household goods and clothing save that upon their backs; and the condition of many others was such as to move the stoutest heart.

The generous aid so freely rendered to the sufferers by surrounding localities, will ever be remembered by the people of Viroqua, who themselves vied with each other in acts of kindness to the unfortunate. The fairest portion of the town was laid in ruins and a less industrious and self-reliant people would have seen good cause for depression and discouragement. But the energetic citizens of Viroqua, bent their whole energies to repair the damage done to property; and while they mourned the terrible calamity which had overtaken them and their still more unfortunate neighbors, they were assiduous in building up the waste places of their beautiful village; and removing all traces of the terrible scourge which had so sorely afflicted them.

IV.—WHAT HAPPENED TO MRS. W. R. PURDY.

Mrs. W. R. Purdy, then a little girl, eight years of age, with her sister two years older, were returning from school, and when but a few rods from the school house, the latter, realizing more distinctly the danger of attempting to go farther, caught hold of a tree, entreating her sister to do the same, which she did not do, but ran on towards their home, a couple of blocks distant. When between where the waterworks are now located and Smith & Lytle's hardware store, (then I. K. Buck's store) on Jefferson street, she was taken up by the storm and tossed back and forth from one side of the street to the other. Timbers were flying promiscuously around, and once, after she had been blown against the store, and while lying there, a piece of timber, or board was sent whizzing through the building directly over her head. She was finally carried by the wind across Main street, and on to the porch of Nichols Bros' drug store, then in ruins. I. K. Buck seeing her from his door, ran across in the storm, picked her up, aud carried her into his store, keeping her there till the storm had subsided. Mrs. Purdy received injuries from which she will probably never recover.

V.—W. F. TERHUNE'S RECOLLECTION.

On the afternoon of June 28, 1865, I was at the intersection of Main and Jefferson streets in Viroqua village, when I saw a great agitation of the clouds in the west. It was about 4 o'clock. There seemed to be an unusual quiet and stillness all around, a dead calm prevailed; meantime the disturbance appeared to increase in the westward. I heard a roaring sound, deep and approaching. I then observed that the air was filled with limbs and trunks of trees, having the appearance in the distance of birds rapidly flitting about. I very well knew what was coming, that a tornado was rapidly approaching; and I hesitated whether to endeavor to reach my residence or return to my office, which was near; as I was fearful I might be struck by the storm if I ventured to attempt to reach my home.

Just at that moment some one took me by the arm and proposed we should go into the office; there were several standing around. We thereupon stationed ourselves at the doors as the storm struck, in order to hold them shut. By this time the noise became very loud and ear-piercing, like a thousand steamboat whistles all blowing at the same time, sharp, shrill and vicious. Two of the office windows were at once blown in, and one of the doors was blown open which three strong men tried in vain to close again, until the force of the wind was somewhat spent. An unusual gloom and darkness pervaded the atmosphere at this time. The whole duration of the shock was not to exceed a minute and a half, probably not so long. No one was hurt in my office, because of the building being sheltered by another and

higher building, the store of J. Henry Tate. There was a girl writing in the office at the time, Alice Goode, who was terrified and shrieked with fear. Mrs. Susan Graham, wife of the late Hon. Carson Graham, had run into the office and assisted in trying to keep the doors shut. My own sensation was a very great concern for my family, so much that I had little if any personal fear.

My residence was about three blocks distant. As soon as the storm permitted, I started for home in great haste. I at once noticed that the street ahead of me was filled with the debris of ruined buildings, and I heard around me as I advanced, cries and shrieks of pain and alarm; children and female voices mostly. I had gone but a few rods when I passed a Mr. Langley, who was holding on to a tree and bleeding from wounds he had received on the head and face. I also observed the two-story building of J. H. Somerby, where the *Northwestern Times* had been printed, lay in ruins before me, and I was compelled to run over them. I likewise noted that the store occupied by the Nichols', was leveled to its foundation. I did not of course take much time for observation, as I was running. I saw persons here and there darting about, but I have no recollection who they were. I soon came in sight of my house, which, with a feeling of very great relief, I saw was still standing and the thought flashed across my mind that my family was safe. My building stood in a native grove, and as I approached it I found all the larger trees blown down or torn up by the roots or their trunks twisted off above ground; while the smaller hickory and oak trees lay bent over, with their tops upon the ground.

I made my way through them as rapidly as I could and found that my building had been in appearance bombarded. The heavier timbers from the demolished houses of my neighbors, and from the M. E. church building had been hurled with great force into the air, some of them striking upon the north side of my house, driving in the windows and doors and making holes like cannon shot, through the siding, knocking down the supporting pillars of the porches on that side, and carrying away the blinds and sash of the observatory.

On entering my dwelling, I found my family in the cellar all unhurt, but in a great state of alarm and terror, from the effects of which my wife was rendered very ill and has never fully recovered. I got my family up from below as soon as I could re-assure them and prevail upon them to come. I found my son Leonard, then ten years of age, was missing, and I at once started to find him. He had found shelter in a neighbor's house and was safe.

My wife's experience was that, when she discovered the darkness coming on, she and the hired girl went up stairs to close the windows; and after they had closed them, she observed, through the window, the trees bending their tops to the very ground. Frightened by the noise of the storm, she reached the head of the stairs in haste to descend to the cellar; when the girl, in a paroxysm of fear, grasped and held on to her. They both descended into the kitchen where our two children were and she hurried them all into the cellar, she being in great fright and trepidation during the time; and it was there, as I have said, that I found them.

When I had time to look about me, I found my young orchard and all the fences around destroyed and my barn unroofed. I then went immediately to the assistance of others. I saw all the buildings south of Terhune street, were either shattered or blown down, except my own. By this time I began to realize the awful nature of the disaster and became agitated. I threw open my doors for the dying and wounded in my immediate vicinity to be brought in. It was a most sickening spectacle, heart-rending in the extreme. The first to be assisted in was the wife of Dr. W. W. Weeden. She was only slightly injured but her child was killed. Their house had been blown away and

the little one was found buried in the ruins. There was also a young lady in the bloom of youth brought in a corpse; it was a Miss Gillett.

A family named Barstow, consisting of six persons, received a terrible visitation. Mr. Barstow himself and wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. Drake, were brought in mortally injured, the brother-in-law, a Mr. Drake, was found dead in a field near the destroyed residence of R. C. Bierce, and little boys were left homeless orphans. Mr. Barstow died the same night, and the wife and Mrs. Drake were removed to the hospital improvised by the citizens the next day, where after lingering in great pain for several days, they died. Places were found for the boys, I think, with some distant relatives. Mrs. W. S. S. White, wife of the register of deeds, was brought in with a broken leg and remained in great bodily suffering for ten days, when she also died. On every side were heard the cries of suffering and distress, and for a week were seen the tears of lamentation and woe. The loss and destruction of property was at first little considered, so great were other calamities. The blow fell so suddenly and unexpectedly that those who escaped had time only to feel emotions of gratitude for their own safety and that of their families and sympathy for the afflicted and distressed.

There was a silk dress found near New Lisborn, in Juneau county, belonging to Mrs. Dr. H. G. Weeden. A dwelling house door of Joseph Buckley was found in the mill-pond at the village of Hillsborough; and his army discharge was picked up two miles from Viroqua, near the residence of J. Wallace. Articles of clothing and pieces of damaged furniture were found miles away from the scene of the disaster.

VI.—STATEMENT OF H. M. ISHAM.

On the 28th of June, at about half past 3 in the afternoon, I was in my brother's house, on section 3, in township 12, range 5 west, in the town of Jefferson, where my brother, Cassius B. Isham, came in pretty brisk, saying: "It is the worst storm coming I ever saw in the west," when just at that moment the house (a log one) began to go. The roof went first, and then a good part of the logs. Besides my brother, there were, in the house at the time, his wife and four children, and Mary Rowe. My brother was some hurt, and one or two of the children. His wife, also, was slightly injured. A few logs were left remaining. We all had all we could do to hold on to the logs that were remaining, to keep from being blown away. It rained considerably at the time.

I had ten or a dozen steel traps up in the loft, and they were all blown away and never found. A trowel was found a mile and a half away belonging to me. The clothing, bed-clothes and articles were blown out of the house and never recovered. A spinning-wheel spindle, found sticking in the siding of a house in Viroqua, was recognized as belonging to my brother. This was the first house struck by the tornado. It was repaired afterward, and stood several years, but is now demolished. It stood about 100 rods south of the town line, which runs to the south part of Viroqua. The roaring of the wind was very loud, and the clouds very black. The air was full of leaves and vegetation, that seemed to be whirled up from off the ground.

The next house east of my brother's that was struck was on section 2, in the same town, belonging to Morgan Neff. It was blown to the ground. I went to Viroqua immediately after the tornado passed. I stopped at Neff's on the way. I had to walk about three miles and a half in a straight line before reaching Viroqua. Arriving at the village I assisted the sufferers the best I could the rest of the day.

VII.—NATHAN COE'S NARRATIVE

I was living in Viroqua on the 28th of June, 1865, when the great tornado devastated a large part of the village. My dwelling was on Main street, where Joseph Buckley now lives—that

is, on the same lot. I was in the court house when I first noticed a strange appearance of the clouds. There seemed a very black cloud in the south, but a white one in the north. James Lowrie was county treasurer, and William Keir was at the moment paying his taxes. He and I were looking west, and the treasurer was attending to his books facing us. I saw the two clouds through the west window, which was up at the time, come together. They whirled around, presenting an appearance of a white streak and a black one in a spiral form. I remarked, "Those clouds are getting pretty badly twisted up." Lowrie looked around, and shutting up his book, exclaimed: "I am going home," at the same time closing the window.

Of course we had to go out, as he locked the door of the office. Lowrie went west to his home, but Keir and I came into the tavern, then called the North Star, kept by Luther Polan, now the Tremont House. However, before we reached the tavern, it appeared as if it was raining; it was the water from the Skippen's pond, which we mistook at first for rain. When we reached the North Star, we had hard work to get in, there were so many inside holding the door. Keir got in first, and when I tried I was successful, but my coat-tail was caught in the door, and the pressure against it was so great from those who were holding it, that I could not get loose. Just then I looked out of the south window, and saw the east side of the court house roof go off.

Just at this moment some one said to me, "There are two of your horses coming down the street, and one with a piece of board hanging to the halter." It was a part of the manger where the horse had been tied in the barn. I had, at that time, seven horses in my barn. I then pulled myself out of my coat, the garment being left in the door. I then turned around, gave my coat a jerk, and the door came open.

I looked out toward the south, and I saw the buildings were pretty much all down. I then went directly home. I found the east of my house gone, and the windows blown in on the north side. I asked my wife if any of the family were hurt, and she replied that there were none. Then I started to go to my mother's home—Mrs. Margaret Coe's. On my way there I met a boy who told me that all my horses were piled up in a heap on the barn floor—the barn was all gone and the floor too, except where the horses were. I had a new wagon standing beside the barn. It was blown away, and I never saw any part of it afterward. Still I went on to my mother's. I found her and my two sisters and Emily and Edward W. Hazen, not any of them injured. My brother, William Coe, had been in the house. My mother and the four children went into the cellar kitchen; but my brother refused to go down, and was blown away with the house.

I found him a short distance away from where the house had stood; the rest of the family by this time, had come out of the cellar. My brother was fast under one of the sills. Mr. Keir went all the way with me from the tavern, and he helped me get my brother out, who was badly hurt. It was eight or nine days before we knew whether he would recover or not; but he finally got well. Five sacks of wheat and some kitchen furniture were blown away from the cellar kitchen, and the clothes of my mother and of the children were pretty badly torn. The chickens around the house were all killed, and most of them had their feathers off quite as clean as if stripped by hand. One of the family garments—a cloth circular—was afterward found about forty-five miles away, to the eastward.

VIII—JOHN DAWSON'S ACCOUNT.

Before the approach of the storm, the day was very hot, but the weather was threatening, and we could hear thunder for, perhaps, an hour before. I was very busily engaged at the time in my store, which was located nearly opposite my residence, and took little notice of the dangerous aspect of the storm until it was very near the village. When I first noticed it, some

one calling my attention to it from my store door, it appeared to be a confused mass of timbers, branches, stones, leaves, driven among themselves in every direction. The track of the storm appeared to be about one hundred rods wide, and the noise was like the rumble of thunder. In sound and in the dread that it inspired, it was like to a score of giant locomotives driving abreast.

It came from the west, and I watched its approach until it reached the nearest dwelling of the village that I discovered. This was the Gardner dwelling. It lifted the building from its base, tossed it in air like a toy, and rent it in pieces, scattering the fragments on every side. I watched its course among the houses until it neared my own home. I then saw a two-story building north of my dwelling picked up and thrust over upon my house. There was no time from the first real comprehension of the peril—not a moment to think. There was but one thought, and that was to hug the earth where alone lay our safety. With this intent I leaped from the door and ran out into the street, only to be knocked down by the flying timber. When I recovered myself, the storm was past, and I rose and walked to the ruins of my house and took my child from its mother's arms and ran back to the store. My wife remained, saying she would see if she could find Mrs. Somerby. My injuries, which, in the excitement were hardly noticed, overcame me in a few minutes, and I became unconscious. Because of my wounds and the consequent illness, I did not see the ruins for some time, and can give no account of them. It was a number of weeks before I recovered sufficiently to be around and attend to business. I have never fully recovered. The whole number killed outright and who afterward died from the injuries received, were twenty.

My house was destroyed in this way: The floor was left; all above that a wreck. My wife was slightly injured, but the boy was unhurt. Their escape was a wonder, considering the timber and other debris which fell around them.

IX.—CHARLES C. BROWN'S RECOLLECTION.

I was about one mile east of Viroqua at Green's. I was helping Amos Green frame his barn. It was a blustering afternoon; there were strong indications of a storm. It appeared so threatening that we concluded to quit work. It thundered heavily, and there was vivid lightning. I suggested to the boys, as we had so many steel tools, that I felt uneasy about working there. We had no more than quit fairly, before the storm came on. All but myself went into Green's house; I did not go in because I felt uneasy about home. I discovered the storm coming—the ground trembled. We could have seen the storm sooner had it not been that we were behind a heavy grove.

The tornado passed about 200 yards south of me. It had the appearance of a huge top; it was cone shaped. It looked as though it was made up of tar—it was a black mass. The noise was deafening. Immediately after it passed it was quite calm. I immediately started for town. I had not gone far before I discovered the fragments of a school house. Children were running wild in every direction. I was then close to old Mr. Green's residence. He asked me to go over and render assistance to those children who might be found in the rubbish. I went and helped take out six children, some already dead and the residue soon expired. Other help now came and I hurried home.

Most of the children that I met before reaching the ruins of the school house were more or less injured; many had blood on their faces. They were frantic and were running for home. I found the school teacher, a young lady, sitting on the ground with a child's head resting on her lap with very bad gashes in her face. She was so covered with blood as not to be recognized. She appeared very cool and rational. The child she held was already dead or was dying. She said all but the six had gone home.

I wondered how she could know; but she was correct.

When I got home (I was then living with my brother, T. B. Brown, now dead,) the floor of our house was covered with the wounded lying about. There were none dead there however. I reached Viroqua not far from 5 o'clock. It. was the afternoon of June 28, 1865.

In coming in from the country I saw many strange sights. Chickens with their feathers nearly all blown off; cats wandering half dead; horses lying down with their legs broken. Wagons, household furniture and other articles strewed in every direction. I should think from all I saw and have since learned, the tornado traveled at the rate of about a mile a minute on the ground.

RECOLLECTIONS OF R. C. BIERCE.

As I now recall the facts, it was at a point about four and one-half miles west from the village of Viroqua, that the wind had gathered sufficient force to begin to break down and tear up trees. My recollection is to the effect that the first building destroyed or partially destroyed, was the residence of Benjamin Pierce. This, I think, was a log house, and, probably, was not very large. I think, too, that the dwelling of a man whose name is Cassius B. Isham, was either wholly or partially destroyed before the storm reached the village. As the tornado seemed to move straight to the east from the west, as straight as a line could be drawn, and as its track was only about twenty rods wide, it did not happen to strike many buildings until it reached the village. Then its ruin was triumphant and complete. A Mr. William Vought was living about one-half mile west from the village limits, and in the very pathway of the storm, but I think his house was not injured at all.

I do not remember now the last building that was destroyed east of the village. But after the all-destroying column ceased to hug the ground so closely as to suck up buildings and everything else that stood in its way, it still had force enough to scatter fences, tear up trees by the roots or break them off. Writing to Prof. Henry, when all the facts were fresh in my mind, I remember now very distinctly that I made the distance about nine miles from the point where it began to destroy trees west of the village to the point where its destruction ceased east of the village. Like a bird of evil omen with black, wide-spreading pinions, it seemed to swoop down from the regions above, smiting first the tops of the trees, and descending lower and lower until it reached the ground, when it swept everything away with rushing wings, and when fully glutted and satisfied with the ruin it had wrought, of both life and property, it gradually lifted itself up again, destroying as it rose until it reached the very clouds. A great many acres of valuable timber standing east of Viroqua was almost wholly destroyed. John White was, perhaps, one of the severest sufferers in this respect.

As the tornado passed through the village, and it may have been so outside the village, there seemed to be side currents coming in from the northwest that proved destructive. The court house stood two blocks, or more, north of the direct track of the storm, but it was unroofed. Dr. E. W. Tinker occupied the house now occupied by Capt. John R. Casson, and to the rear of it stood his barn. The barn was destroyed and a valuable horse was killed; but I do not remember now that either his house or other houses in that immediate vicinity were much, if any, injured. Probably, the current that unroofed the court house struck the old Buckeye house, then occupied by J. M. Rusk's family, and tore off the north wing of the building; and either this current or the one that struck Dr. Tinker's barn, struck the residence of A. K Burrell, it being the house more recently, and, perhaps, now occupied by H. P. Proctor, Esq., and moved it from its foundations some six feet northeast, so that when Mrs. Burrell, after the storm was over, went to the door, and looking out, saw where the cistern

was, she exclaimed: "I declare if the storm didn't blow our cistern away!"

As for my own individual experience in that trying time, I can well say that I dislike to recall it; but, if it will add anything to the value of the history you are compiling, I will give it.

My office at that period was on the lower floor of the south wing of Tate's store building as it stood at that time. I was very busy that day drawing complaints for the foreclosure of some tax deeds, and I noticed nothing peculiar about the temperature of the atmosphere or of the clouds until the wind began to blow so hard through a south window that was open as to scatter my papers all about my office and I got up and closed the window and sat down to writing again. So little was I anticipating a violent storm, I did not even take the time nor the trouble to look out and see what the clouds were like. It was but a moment, however, apparently, before a gust of wind came in at the door which opened to the east, and blowing the papers all off my table a second time. I got up and closed the door, gathered up my papers and sat down to my writing again. At this time my son Freddie, then seven years old, came running into my office, just dismissed from school, and plead with me to go home with him. He said there would be a dreadful storm, and most all the school children had run into the jail. I tried to quiet him down by telling him I thought the storm would be over in a very few minutes for my position in my office was such that I saw nothing of the fearful gathering of the clouds that held within them such terrific power for destruction. It was growing dark in my office and I told Freddie we would go into the store and stay until the storm was over. We passed into the store and found a good many people in there and more came running in. I passed back to the farther end of the store building where there was a window overlooking the court house square. Then I noticed for the first time how dark, threatening and heavy the clouds were. In a moment more other men came rushing into the store; all of a sudden there was a terrible roar, and amidst it I could hear the shrieks of women and the frenzied calls of men; the store was full of people that had rushed in; the strong building began to tremble and creak; some sprang to the doors and others to the windows to hold them in; a wave of blackness almost as impenetrable as the blackness of deep midnight swept along. In that blackness I could barely see the tall liberty pole that stood in the court house square bending and sweeping round and round until the ball on the top seemed to touch the ground; the shurbbery all seemed to lie flat on the ground and to twist round and round in circles; the air was full of flying boards, shingles and rubbish that went sweeping by the window where I was standing and looking out on the dire drama that was being played outside; I could hear them striking against the building, but over and above all was that indescribable, that unearthly roar, and brooding over and around all was the almost impenetrable darkness.

All this was but for a moment, comparatively speaking. The spirit of the storm was as swift as it was terrible, in passing over the doomed village. The winds died away, the clouds lifted, and from the window, where I stood through it all, I could see that the court house was unroofed, the liberty pole was gone, the shrubbery had all disappeared, and the trophies of the storm were lying around everywhere. The store doors were opened and the people began to pass out. I went to the door and looked out, and at a distance, apparently of two miles east of the village, I could see the whirlwind, tornado, cyclone, or whatever people might see proper to call it. It was a dark, perpendicular column, in fact, it was intensely black and impenetrable, moving steadily on to the east, roaring as it went. Of its diameter, I had no means of judging, but it reached from the ground to the clouds, and I could see the clouds coming from every direction like race horses, and all

were drawn down into the terrible vortex. One moment, that awful black, moving column would sink down and down, drawing every thing from above with it, and anon it would rise up and up into the heavens, and then it would spew out its gathered stomach full of rubbish which would go scattering off on the the wings of the wind.

I do not remember that it rained while the storm cloud was passing over, but soon after, the rain began to fall. As the thought that my property had been touched by that dark monster, I had seen so plainly, did not once enter my mind, I was in no hurry about leaving the store, but I remained there with Freddie until the rain ceased, then we started for the house.

When I got out of the store, the first thing I noticed, was the ruins of J. A. Somerby's house piled up in the middle of the street, in front of where McKee's store stands, and somebody stood there looking at them, then I saw that the store of H. Nichols & Sons was gone, all there was left of it was the lower floor, and L. W. Nichols stood there surveying the ruins. The next evidence of loss that I noticed, was when I reached the residence of Mrs. Thomas Fretwell; she stood in the middle of the street, crying and wringing her hands. Her house was very badly demoralized.

From Mrs. Fretwell's I went directly home, and it seemed to me as though I saw my house standing there, intact, until I got on to the very grounds. Like every one else, I was dazed, bewildered, thrown off my balance. The fact is, no two persons saw things just alike then. The first thing that recalled me to a sense of the real situation of things, meeting my little son, Arthur, then just over three years of age, running around and calling for "Ma!" His clothes were nearly all torn from his body, he had a great swelling on his forehead, where he had been hit by something; he was plastered all over with dirt and blood was on his face, his hands and his feet. When he saw me he cried out, "Pa, where's Ma." I replied, "I dont know, my son; dont you know where Ma is?" and he answered in his childish way, "No; where is her?" Then I began to realize the true condition of things. For a moment the inexpressible silence of complete desolation reigned. My house was gone, my wife was gone, buildings, fences, trees, all were gone. Only two hours before, I had left that home, a place bright and lovely to me; then all darkness, silence and desolation. Owing to my slowness in leaving the store after the storm was over, many of the villagers had rescued from the ruins of several destroyed houses, the injured, dead and dying, before I got to where my house stood, and several men were there looking for my wife when I got there. It was an hour perhaps, before my wife was found. She was found at last, by Comfort Richardson, lying insensible between two floors of the central portion of the house. These floors had been carried bodily from where the house stood, in a southeasterly direction from the street and on to the lands of Dr. Weeden. The finding was in a measure accidental. As we were threading through the ruins that lay thick all around, Comfort, being near the floors thought he heard a groan. For some time we looked around without finding her, when Comfort, noticing that the upper floor projected some over the under floor, he stooped down and looked under, and he saw a portion of the skirt of her dress hanging down. By calling a number of men to our aid, we raised the upper floor sufficiently to get her out. She was taken to the residence of Deacon Trowbridge where Dr. Tinker dressed her wounds. It was some hours before she was restored to consciousness, and several days before she so far recovered as to be able to help herself. A wound she received on her head, was the final cause of her death, so her attending physicians said. She never fully recovered from the effects of that wound, and I could see that yearly and monthly, she was growing weaker physically, and her mind, too, suffered some, towards the last, and on Monday evening July 19, 1874,

as she was sitting by my side in church, she was stricken with paralysis, and she lingered until twenty minutes past 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, July 25, when she breathed her last.

It may not be amiss to relate briefly what my wife told me she saw and felt before she became unconcious. It was a very warm day, and she was engaged in ironing, in the kitchen, when the wind began to blow quite hard, and she saw from the appearance of the clouds that quite a storm was like to happen. She went up stairs and into other rooms below, to put down windows that were up; as there were several rooms, this occupied some time. Having closed all the windows she started for the kitchen again, and by the time she reached the door opening from the dining room into the kitchen, the wind was blowing so hard that the house began to tremble. She noticed that Arthur had crawled under the kitchen table and was lying flat on his face. Phineas Drake, a man that was sawing and splitting wood in the wood house, had come into the kitchen and stood with his hands against one of the windows, and he remarked that he "thought the wind would blow in the windows." At that moment she heard a jingling, as of breaking glass, and she knew nothing more until she came back to consciousness, after having been carried to Mr. Trowbridge's house. She fell where she stood, by the door between the dining room and kitchen.

Poor Drake was found in Dr. Weeden's field, some three or four rods beyond where my wife was found. His head was terribly bruised and he lay as lifeless, apparently, as a corpse. He lived, however, until the eighth day after he was hurt, but I always understood that he passed away without ever giving a single sign of life. He was taken to Tate's Hall, where so many other wounded and dead were taken. His aged father and mother lived on the second block west from me, and were both killed.

I learned from those who first reached the ruins of my place, that my little boy, Arthur, was thrown into the cellar, where he was so completely covered with the *debris* of the storm, that the people who were looking around could not see him. Some of his playmates finally came along, and as he looked up through the rubbish and saw them, he called to them. Men were then called and he was taken out.

There are a great many incidents connected, not only with the destruction of my home, but with the destruction of the finest portion of Viroqua, as it stood on the morning of the 28th day of June, 1865, and before the tornado struck it, that possess a sad, yet sacred interest to me, but it will not be proper for me to allude to them here.

The whole face of that portion of the village that was swept by the tornado was changed. Every well known landmark was gone. The familiar things that I had looked on every day were blotted out of existence. The fond care, the hopeful toil, the pleasant labors of years, vanished in a moment, and all that was left was memory. The track of the storm looked as though it had been the deep bed of a water course, for ages, from which the water had been suddenly drawn, leaving nothing pleasant for the eye to look on. Every where was cold, silent, gray ruin and desolation. Every green thing was gone from garden and from door yard, and dry, hard, scorched earth, alone remained. The ruins seem to be all plastered over with mud, and the scene of the ruins was most dreadful and appalling.

XI.—A. L. RUSSELL'S STATEMENT.

I came from Sparta the day on which the disaster occurred. I noticed several times that it threatened rain before I arrived home. I reached my house about half past 3 o'clock. About that time there appeared to be a heavy shower gathering in the northwest and southwest. The clouds in the northwest had a white look, as if the sun was shining on them, but those in the southwest were intensely black—black as ink.

When I came home (I had my wife with me) I left her at the house and I went to put out my horse. When I got back to the house it was unusually calm; there did not seem to be any air stirring at all. The two storms seemed at this time to have come together in the west; there was a great deal of thunder and lightning. My wife was standing in the door and called my attention to the whirling appearance of the clouds.

About that time the wind commenced to blow hard from the east; then, in a moment, it changed to the west. We were both in the house looking out at the west door. The storm seemed now to be approaching very rapidly; every thing seemed to be lapped up as it came on. My wife suggested that we had better go out doors. I told her to wait a moment, to see which way the storm was going. I then told her there was nothing that could stand before that storm; that she should get her heaviest shawl and that we go across the road to a thicket. My house was in the extreme west end of the town.

We had barely reached the brush when the storm was upon us. We came near being caught by a tree falling on us. We both then knelt down in the brush as close to the ground as we could get. By that time the wind blew so hard that the brush was all blown flat to the ground. We just got sight of the house as it was struck by the tornado. It was sucked right up into the clouds with a whirling motion; but almost instantly it was total darkness. There was nothing to be seen but small balls of fire, which seemed about the size of a hen's egg. It was only a few seconds before it passed by.

Both my wife and I were badly hurt; my wife soon became unconscious after getting her to a neighbor's house; one of her wrists was fractured; she has never got the full use of it since. I soon followed out on the track of the tornado, and the sight was appalling!

CHAPTER XXV.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

There have been printed at different periods historical sketches of a part or of the whole of the county. These are reproduced in this chapter because of their value for comparison, as showing the changes which have taken place in the county, and its increase.

I. FROM THE WESTERN TIMES, SEPT. 6, 1856.

The fall emigration has commenced coming in, and new houses and other buildings are going up in all parts of the county. New villages are springing up and new roads are being laid and worked. The crops, already harvested, are good. The corn crop, although much of it was put in late, will not be below an average crop. Potatoes are excellent and very abundant. In short, Bad Ax county is going forward in fine style with every description of improvements. The Messrs. Gilletts' and Mr. Goode's steam mills will make lumber more plentiful for building.

Land in this county, generally, we think, is very cheap, comparing the quality and convenience to good markets, with other counties. And there is just as good land as ever a plow was used in, to be pre-empted yet, in the county, or entered as soon as the land office opens. And mechanics who wish to obtain good homes and plenty of business cannot do better than come to Bad Ax county. In Viroqua there are the very best kind of openings for a large carriage shop, a jeweller's shop, a tailor's shop, a harness shop, a bakery, a machine shop and foundry, and many others.

And in Viroqua and vicinity are excellent locations for a paper mill; dozens of good locations for water and steam power of every description, and plenty of timber. Numerous springs are scattered over the county, from which flows, bright and sparkling, through trout brooks, plentiful supplies of the "nectar that Jupiter sips." On the ridge, where wells have to be dug, the water is generally obtained at less than forty feet on an average, and unfailing water has been obtained near this place (Viroqua), on top of a ridge, at a depth of twelve feet only.

Now is the time for those who wish to get good homes cheap, to obtain them in just as good a country as there is in the wide world.

II.—BY GEORGE GALE, 1860.*

Bad Ax county, notwithstanding its uncouth name, is an excellent county of land. The most part of the county along the Mississippi river is quite broken, being cut up by many large and small streams that flow west into the Mississippi, but the central part rises on to the high table prairie, and is now covered with fine farms under a good state of cultivation. The eastern part of the county, including the Kickapoo valley, is covered with heavy hardwood timber. There is no poor soil in the county. The bluffs on the Mississippi and the heavy timber of the Kickapoo, are equally as rich in soil as the high prairie of the central portion, but it is not as thickly inhabited. The origin of the name of the county I will here give you as I obtained it from an Indian trader and sutler in the army, nine years ago.

*From the Galesville *Transcript*. The errors in this account by Mr. Gale will be sufficiently apparent to the reader from what has been said in previous chapters. We have not, therefore, attempted to correct them.

The Winnebago Indians at an early time, attempted to manufacture axes and arrow heads out of the rocks near the mouth of Bad Ax river, but the rock being too soft the articles manufactured proved to be worthless. From that time the Indians applied the name of Bad Ax to the bluff, and also the river or creek near the point. The Winnebagoes called the creek Mar-she-rah-she-shiek Ne-shun-ugh-arah, which literally signifies Ax bad little river. Notoriety was given to the name by the battle that was fought with the Sacs and Foxes by the United States army in 1832, two miles below the mouth of the Bad Ax creek. To perpetuate the memory of the battle, the State Legislature, at the organization of the county in 1851 applied to it the name of Bad Ax, with the Webster spelling, Ax, without a terminating letter—e of some authors.

The village sites of Bad Ax city, Victory, DeSoto, and some other points on the Mississippi river, had, for many years before the organization of the county, been occupied by Canadian Indian traders, who for many years were supplied with goods by Col. Dousman, agent of the American Fur Company, but as their residence was temporary, they are not generally recognized as the first permanent settlers of the county. The last of these traders who occupied these points at the ingress of the American population, was John Verdon, (called Battise), at Bad Ax city; Mr. Patwell, at Victory, and John Roberts, at DeSoto; none of which are now residing in the county.

The first permanent American settlers, were Hiram Rice, Samuel Rice and John McCullock, who settled on Round Prairie, at what is now Liberty Pole, in the town of Bad Ax, in the summer of 1843. In the year 1846 their number was increased by the addition of John Graham, Thos. J. DeFrees, Jacob, Johnson, John Harrison, Dr. Tinker and William C. McMichael. In 1847 Moses Decker settled the present site of Viroqua, and in 1848 John Warner settled at Warner's Landing. In 1847 and and the following years new settlers came in rapidly and now Bad Ax county contains a more numerous population than any county north of the Wisconsin river, excepting only, the county of La Crosse. The county is well watered by the Bad Ax and Coon rivers, running west into the Mississippi and the Kickapoo, running south through the whole county having its source in the county of Monroe.

The new county was organized by an act of the Legislature approved March 1st, 1851, and the first election for county officers was held on the first Tuesday of April of that year. At that election, Thomas J. DeFrees was elected county judge, Lorenzo A. Pierce, district attorney, William C. McMichael register of deeds, and Orrin Wisel, clerk of the court.

The first term of the circuit court, Hon. Wiram Knowlton, presiding, was held in the old log school house at Viroqua, on the third Monday in May, 1851. The second term of the court was held on the fourth Monday of November of the same year, at the same place, and by the same judge, at which latter term the writer attended as an attorney from La Crosse. This term beat the West for its rich scenes, many of which were so supremely ridiculous, that by common consent they never got into the papers. I doubt if any one will ever have the temerity to reduce them to writing.

The present county officers are Hon. J. E. Newell, county judge; C. M. Butt, Esq., district attorney; William S. Purdy, clerk of the court; William H. Goode, sheriff; J. M. Bennett, clerk of the board of supervisors; James Lowrie, treasurer; D. P. Allison, register, and Charles Pitcher, coroner. They are all very efficient officers, and are creditable to the county. At the general election last fall, William C. McMichael was elected to the Assembly from the district composed of the counties of Crawford and Bad Ax, and made an influential member of that body. Mr. McMichael has held some of the county offices nearly all the time since the organization of the county, and con-

tinues to occupy a high position in the esteem of the inhabitants of that county.

The old log court house has now given place to a large commodious two story frame building, being the largest court house in the sixth judicial district.

VIROQUA.

The land on which this village was laid out, was first settled upon and improved by Moses Decker, in the fall of 1847. The name was derived from the name of a young squaw found in a novel, but had no reference to any of the aborigines of this region of country. It was first laid out into village lots the 3d of Sept. 1852. A county addition was laid out the 13th of May, 1853.

Under the act of the 1st of March, 1851, the board of supervisors established the county seat at Viroqua, and subsequently, the question having been submitted to a vote of the electors of the whole county, this village was retained as the permanent capital of the county.

The village is located on the southeast quarter of section 31, and the southwest quarter of section 32, in township number 13, of range 4 west of the 4th principal meridian. It is distant thirty-six miles southeast from La Crosse, forty-seven miles northeast of Prairie du Chien and twenty miles east of the Mississippi river. It is situated in a pleasant grove nearly surrounded by prairies and upon high rolling land. As a healthy location it cannot be easily exceeded in the western country.

The village now contains a court house, jail, one bank, one postoffice, four dry goods and grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, one cabinet shop, one steam grist mill, one school house, two churches, one harness shop, one boot and shoe shop, two hotels, one tailor, and several carpenter shops, five practicing lawyers, and two physicians, and a population of about 700 inhabitants. No spirituous liquors sold in town.

DE SOTO.

This village is named after the distinguished discoverer of the Mississippi river, and is located principally on section 15, township 11, range 7 west, on the east bank of the Father of Waters. The village is divided into the upper and lower town, the latter of which is in Crawford county. The original owners of the soil in the lower town were Joseph and Michael Godfrey, Canadian French, who sold out in 1855 to Gustavus Cheney, who purchased it for the Boston Company. That company have now a store, grist mill, boarding house, and the best and most extensive steam saw mill I have noticed on the Mississippi river. It is run with three engines, and besides many single saws, it has two gangs of twenty saws each.

E. B. Houghton, Dr. Osgood and Dr. Powers purchased the upper town in 1854 and moved there in 1855. Dr. Osgood put up the first frame building in the spring of 1855. Dr. Houghton put up the second house very soon after—the same spring. The village was laid out in the summer of 1855, by Dr. E. B. Houghton as its proprietor. The upper town of De-Soto proper, contains two stores, two warehouses, postoffice, one steam saw mill, one three-story public house, called the Bay State House; kept by Mr. C. H. Allen, and a few shops. The landing on the Mississippi is good.

This town has been the river deposit of a large amount of wheat for shipment during the past winter and does considerable business with the south part of Bad Ax and north part of Crawford. It was originally called Winneshiek, after the Indian Chief of that name who died at Lansing Iowa about 1848. The population of the whole village is about 500 inhabitants.

VICTORY.

This village is situated five miles above De-Soto, on the Mississippi river, and received its name from the victory which was obtained over the Indians at the battle of Bad Ax, which was fought only a mile below the village. Ira Stevens originally pre-empted the land in 1849, and entered it in 1850. He sold out part of his interest to Hon. William F. Terhune, John Ca-

Christen Ellefsen

vana and H. M. McAuley, who laid out a small village plat July 21st, 1852.

George Gale, then of La Crosse, in the spring of 1853 purchased 105 acres of government land on the north side of the present village plat but sold it in 1854. for $1,000 cash, to Hon. John A. Rockwell, of Connecticut, who is the present proprietor thereof. The plat is located on the southeast quarter of section 28 township 12, range 7 west.

The village has an excellent landing on the Mississippi, a postoffice, one store, one hotel, one blacksmith shop, one shoe shop, one school house and does considerable business as a shipping point of grain. It contains about 300 inhabitants. Judge Berry is now the principal proprietor.

Bad Ax City, located on section 28, township 13, range 7; Britt's Landing, on section 9, township 13, range 7; and Warner's Landing on section 4, township 13, range 7; all contain good landings on the Mississippi, and are points of some business with the back country.

Newton, located on the northwest quarter of section 23, township 13, range 6, is situated on the Bad Ax river, about nine miles from the Mississippi. It has mills, postoffice and hotel.

SPRINGVILLE.

The village was laid out in 1847, by John Graham, the proprietor. It derives it name from an enormous spring of water that comes out of the hill at that point. The water of the spring, alone, runs a grist mill a few rods below. This is a delightful little village of about 400 inhabitants, with the usual number of stores, shops, hotels, etc. Hon. James R. Savage is postmaster, and one of the principal proprietors, at this time, of the village.

The eastern part of Bad Ax county contains several villages of some importance, but your correspondent does not possess sufficient data to give them a proper notice at this time. The whole county is now rapidly recovering from the embarrassment of the hard times, and at no distant day it will become one of the largest populated counties of the State.

III.—FROM THE MILWAUKEE SENTINEL, NOV. 1860.

[The writer names the county Minnesheik.]

Minnesheik (Bad Ax) county lies on the Mississippi river, between the counties of La Crosse and Crawford, and also midway between the La Crosse and Milwaukee and Mississippi railroads. It comprises about twenty-seven townships of land, being over half a million of acres, a much larger area than either the counties of Rock or Walworth, and believe me, it contains just as good land as lies out of doors in the State of Wisconsin. I am well aware that, in saying this, I am saying a good deal, and many will think it hard to believe.

I have seen something of the counties of Dane, Rock, Walworth, Dodge and others of the many "garden spots" in good old Wisconsin; but, after all, there is not a county in the State that contains any better land than Minnesheik (Bad Ax). Probably one-third of this is prairie, fine, rolling prairie, the soil being a rich clayey vegetable mold. Another portion, say one-third, is oak-openings and ridges covered with oak under-growth or "grubs." In many places farms have been opened up, and the cultivation of the soil reveals to us a clayey loam, well adapted to wheat; and on these broad ridges wheat does remarkably well.

The balance of the land in this county is timbered, and that pretty heavily. This is an advantage, as the timber is needed in other portions. The soil in the timber country is a rich clay loam, thoroughly impregnated with vegetable mold. When cleared of its timber, it produces as fine wheat, corn, potatoes, etc., as can be raised. The roots of the trees run deep, allowing of the plow being run close to the stumps.

The recent (Federal) census developes a heavier population than had been anticipated, the number being about 11,000 (11,007). Five years ago the counties of La Crosse and Bad Ax had each a little over 4,000 people (Bad Ax,

4,823). Now, the former has 13,500 and the latter 11,500. Considering the absence of large towns, railroads, etc., coupled with its bad name, I think Bad Ax, or Minnesheik, has done well. Large portions of the inhabitants are from Ohio and the New England States, though in some parts there is a good sprinkling of Norwegians.

The great crop now is wheat, though the raising of stock is being taken hold of. There is not a finer region in the world for mixed husbandry; grain, cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, cannot do otherwise than well here; and I will venture the opinion that the hill sides and northern slopes of this county will yet become noted for their fruit, as well as for their sheep and cattle. The fine corn raised, of course, will tell you that before long pork will form a leading article of export.

For the year 1860 the surplus wheat of this county must amount to not less than 1,000,000 bushels. By some, it is estimated at a much higher figure. How to get rid of this is the main question now. Go in what direction you will, it takes from thirty-five to fifty miles of teaming to get to markets. The people, in thinking of this, are led to inquire if their condition cannot be bettered. They ask "why cannot we have railroad facilities?" Their homes are between what is to be the terminus of Minnesota's railroad system at La Crosse, and the roads at the southeast. The people begin to see that it will be of some advantage to them to have a railroad from La Crosse to a favorable point of junction on the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad. They see that such a road would not only give them an outlet southeastwardly for their produce, but that it would carry through their county a large stream of travel, and that thus their many advantages would become known to the world about them; their property would become enhanced in value and their position be one of importance in the State.

If Minnesheik county will be but true to herself, she can soon rank second to no county in point of wealth and population (I except, of course, Milwaukee), for she has elements within her limits to make her such, if she will but develope them; and I believe if she will take the initiatory steps, capital will be induced to take hold and help her. She must, however, show others that she has confidence in herself.

There is, in Minnesheik county, an abundance of water-power, which, taken in connection with its fine timber, will give it a front rank as a locality favorable to manufactures of whatever nature, as well as for the purpose of flouring her vast crop of wheat.

Being on the highway between important systems of railway, a liberal charter for a railroad was procured nearly two years ago. A company has been organized under this charter, which now proposes to survey the road and prosecute the work of its construction. It was proposed at first to build the southern half of the road from Viroqua to some point on the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad at or near Muscoda. This road constructed will prove a very important feeder to the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, giving it the business which now goes down the Mississippi or over the La Crosse road.

Will not the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad interests see their interests in this matter and help in this work? If some outside help were to be furnished it is believed the counties of Richland and Minnesheik (Bad Ax) will take hold manfully and help to push the road along. That this road will ultimately be constructed there is but little doubt. The country through which it is to pass, needs it. Can Milwaukee help secure this trade to herself? Will she do it? Or, shall it be left to Chicago to furnish the necessary capital to develope this country, and thus, by affinity, secure this business to herself? These are matters worthy of the earnest consideration of the business men of Milwaukee.

IV.—BY DR. LANSING, IN LANSING CHRONICLE FEB. 1869.

Viroqua, the county seat of Vernon Co., Wis., is pleasantly situated in the geographical center of the county, near the head waters of the Bad Ax and Kickapoo rivers. The nearest shipping points on the Mississippi river are De Soto and Victory, thirty miles west. The location is about equal distances from La Crosse, Sparta and Boscobel. The town is beautifully located at a point where the timber handsomely opens into prairie on either side, as if designed by the creator for a thriving, healthy and populous city. The private dwellings are mostly very neat and tasty in design, and would not discredit the taste of places of much larger pretensions.

A fine public school building has been erected, large and commodious, possessing architectural beauty and attractions. Two very fine church edifices, with lofty spires, convince the stranger that a high sense of moral feeling pervades the community. The only thing that mars the beauty of the place is the court house. Nothing inspires an attractive feeling or an appreciation of the public spirit of a town more than the beauty and taste displayed in her public buildings. But we are sorry to say in this the Viroquians are somewhat deficient as can easily be tested by a look at the present court house and hall of justice.

The Vernon County *Censor*, a lively, first-class paper, edited by Priest & Nelson, is printed here, and we are pleased to note its usefulness and general circulation. Judge Terhune and Judge Graham are among the first lawyers of the place, and are looked upon as possessing legal talent not inferior to any in the State. Among her mercantile establishments we find J. Henry Tate, who, for the past few years has been doing a fine business; but hops and other speculations compelled him to go into bankruptcy. By the assistance of friends he has again commenced business, and hopes in a few years to regain what he has lost.

W. F. Linderman is the wide-awake merchant of the place, and is doing a fine business in dry-goods, groceries, etc.

I. K. Buck is the principal hardware merchant, and has an extensive trade in stoves, tinware, etc.

E. Wise, the principal grocer of the place keeps a large assortment of confectioneries and Yankee notions.

John Dawson, the main boot and shoe man, is carrying on quite an extensive manufactory.

C. C. Brown is the dealer in furniture and cabinet ware.

Dr. Ely, surgeon dentist, is a man of science, and understands his profession, and withal possessing a fair amount of good nature, and has an extensive practice.

S. C. Lincoln is the worthy P. M., which according to Nasby, means postmaster; and as some have hinted has a faint resemblance of the original.

The Sherman House, H. W. Haskell, proprietor is kept in good style, and is well patronized.

John R. Casson, the gentlemanly clerk of the board of supervisors, and George W. Griffin, the county recorder, are among the leading men of the town.

One of the oldest mercantile houses in the village, is that of M. Nichols, dealer in dry goods, groceries, drugs and medicines.

Several years ago a terrible hurricane swept through the village and destroyed a great portion of it. Although many new buildings have since been erected, still traces are to be seen of the devastation and desolation occurring at that eventful period.

Many things we would like to mention in these few jottings, but time and space will not permit, and we shall pass on to Liberty Pole, five miles in a southwesterly direction from Viroqua. It is a small post village located on Round Prairie, one of the most fertile gardens of Vernon county.

The agricultural resources of the surrounding country are probably unsurpassed in the State. There is a broad belt of excellent timber skirting the prairie on the south and east. Good stone for building purposes is abundant. The general surface of the country is gently undulating, with no lands either too hilly or too level for farming. The soil is a sandy loam, and is well adapted to the different cereals, grapes, etc. What was but a few years ago an unbroken wilderness, now presents to the eye of the beholder pleasant thoroughfares, well-fenced and highly cultivated farms, nice, comfortable dwellings, and a busy and industrious class of people.

At the "Pole," stores, machine-shops and artisans of different kinds are open for business; and a lively trade is carried on at this point throughout the year.

Williams & Rogers, dealers in dry goods, groceries, crockery, boots, shoes, etc., are doing a good business, and have a fine stock and well selected for the present wants of the community. Courteous, attentive and wide-awake, they are bound to succeed.

H. A. Owens, dealer in dry goods, groceries, has also a fine stock, and is doing a good business. He also keeps a good hotel, is active and attentive, and makes everything pleasant and agreeable for his guests.

William Crume is the principal blacksmith and Peter Jacobson cabinet maker. Dr. De Lap, a young man of talent and ability, has recently located here. Andrew Henry, stage proprietor, runs a line of stages to De Soto once a week, arriving on Wednesdays and leaving the same day. Passengers are conveyed to all points in the country.

One mile south, on the road leading to Prairie du Chien, is a natural curiosity known as "Monument Rock." This huge mass of grey limestone rising above the level of the prairie to a height of sixty or seventy feet, it is impossible to pass within sight of without being attracted by its singular appearance. From the base to the top its seems gradually crumbling away under the influence of various causes, and this unequal decomposing gives rise to a great variety of interesting forms, and presents a singularly picturesque character, having the appearance of some lofty watch-tower, or a castellated form like the half ruined wall of some ancient fortified city. This lofty pile has withstood the storms of centuries; and from its weather-beaten crest, one would imagine ages have rolled over it, and still it stands a silent monument of the past to guide travelers, and a land-mark to the inhabitants in all the region round about.

The people have all the comforts and business common to an older and more densely settled country. They are intelligent, enterprising and hospitable, just such communities as our western domain needs to be populated with.

V.—LUTE A. TAYLOR, IN THE LA CROSSE LEADER, JULY, 1870.

This portion of the west is popularly supposed to be a prairie country, but the visitor from the east who should land here (La Crosse), and ride from this city to Viroqua by the way of Morman Cooley and Coon valley, expecting to find a prairie country, would think he had mistaken his location and by some legerdemain had been transported to the Adirondack region of New York, or to the Green Mountains of Vermont. But he would be easily reconciled to the disappointment, for the beauty of the scenery excels that possible in any prairie country.

The road from this city (La Crosse) to Morman Cooley, four miles, is as uninteresting as a sandy prairie can be; but the moment you turn from the river bottoms and enter the broad bluff-bordered cooley, the scene changes to one of absorbing interest and enchanting beauty. The comfortable dwellings, the finely cultivated farms, lying in the valley and stretching far up the hillsides, the frequent groves of woodland, and the stream bordered with an abundant growth of vegetation, all combine to form a

charming picture of country comfort and rural life.

Six or eight miles up the valley and you climb, on an excellent road, to the far summit of the bluff, and after a few miles of mingled woodland and clearing, descend into Coon valley, where a similar beautiful landscape meets the eye. The ascent and descent, slow but not difficult, abound in the most picturesque situations; and for beauty and sublimity combined, can fairly rank with many of the much admired mountain views in the east. This experience is repeated, until, at Springville, three miles this side of Viroqua, you strike the border of the rich, rolling prairies, which form a large portion of the surface of Vernon county.

Viroqua, the county seat of Vernon county, sits on the crest of one of the undulating swells of the prairie, and is pleasant with the abundant shade of natural trees. It suffers from the lack of running water, but, being the county seat of so large and productive a country, its prosperous future is assured, either with or without railroad facilities.

VI.—BY G. W. NUZUM AND JOHN R. CASSON, 1875.
(From Tuthill's History of Wisconsin.)

Vernon county is situated in the western part of the State, between the forty-third and forty-fourth degrees of latitude; its western border of twenty-two miles being watered by the Mississippi river. The soil is good and covered with a heavy growth of hard-wood timber, such as is usually found in timbered countries. The product of small grain is equal, per acre, to any part of the State; and in vegetables it excels the prairie. The surface of the country is rolling, and in some places hilly, but all valuable for timber on such portions as cannot be cultivated. It is well watered by springs and brooks, and well adapted for grazing purposes, for which it will soon become noted. Like all timbered land, it is natural for grass; and, having abundance of water, it will soon become the dairying portion of the State. With an abundance of water-power furnished by the Baraboo and Kickapoo rivers, and a superior quality of timber that could be used for the manufacture of furniture and agricultural implements, this part of Vernon county offers inducements equal to any part of the State.

The county contains 534,040 acres of land, one-third under cultivation. Of the balance, about one-half is capable of being worked.

The raising of stock has become a prominent feature with the husbandman, producing the best quality of grass-fed stock that finds its way to Milwaukee or Chicago markets. The first attempt to raise fruit was attended with little success. Many were disheartened and gave up, others persevered, and have met with success. We have a few "iron-clad" varieties of pears that do well. The first is the Haas; next, Tetofsby and Duchess of Oldenburg. Some others have proved valuable. Of grapes, the Concord and Delaware have done nobly.

The principal kinds of timber are maple, oak, basswood and elm. Plenty of game and fish are found in the forests and streams.

Among the principal settlements is Viroqua, a thriving village and the county seat. It has three churches, and one union school with three departments, which is well supported, both as regards attendance and the interest manifested by the inhabitants. De Soto, Victory, and Geneva, on the Mississippi river, are the principal markets for the western portion of the county, and are also well supplied with schools and churches.

There are about 120 school houses in the county, mostly of wood, but some are built of stone or brick which are very fine structures. The one at Viroqua cost $14,000. The average wages paid to male teachers, is $35, and female teachers $25 per month.

The population is about one-third Norwegian, one-half American and the balance German. The county is increasing fast in wealth and population. It is estimated that 2,000,000

bushels of wheat were raised in the county, in 1873.

VII.—BY W. F. TERHUNE, 1878.

(From the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Wisconsin.)

The territory of this county was set off from Crawford and christened Bad Ax county, comprising all that part of the present territory of Vernon, lying north of Crawford. On the same day, March 1, 1851, an amendatory act was passed assigning the county all that part of its present territory lying north of Richland county. Since that time there have been no territorial changes. In 1862 many of the inhabitants, imagining that its name was calculated to give a wrong impression outside, both as to its territory and people, tending to hinder immigration, petitioned the Legislature for a change of name. This was granted, and the county has since been known as Vernon. It lies on the east bank of the Mississippi, having the counties of La Crosse and Monroe on the north, parts of Richland, Sauk and Juneau on the east, and Crawford and a part of Richland on the south. Its area embraces about 820 square miles, or about twenty-three congressional townships, at present comprised in twenty-one civil towns. The population in 1860 numbered 11,007, which had increased to 21,524 in the year 1875. The Baraboo and Kickapoo rivers, emptying into the Wisconsin, drain the eastern portion of the county. The Mississippi and Bad Ax and Coon rivers, emptying into it, water and drain the western part. Abundant water-powers are numerous on all these streams, waiting for the arrival of enterprise and capital to be utilized and thus rendered available and profitable.

GENERAL FEATURES.

The surface of the county is broken and bluffy along the water courses; elsewhere, undulating and favorable for tillage. Three beautiful prairies, named, respectively, Coon, Round and West Prairie, early attracted the attention of the pioneer and emigrant, and invited occupancy and cultivation in the first general settlement of western Wisconsin. The eastern portion of the county, from and including the valley of the Kickapoo and its tributaries, is heavily timbered with red and white oak, pine, soft and sugar maple, and the elm; also with other less numerous varieties. The western portions of the county have the same varieties of timber, but in much less abundance, except along the Mississippi river, and upon some of its islands, where timber is found in larger quantity. The prairies above named, and extensive oak openings, interspersed with grass and thickets, mostly occupy the surface of the western portion.

The surface formation is a deep, rich vegetable mold, forming a soil especially valuable on the prairies and in the valleys, resting upon a clay sub-soil of varied thickness, frequently very deep; a formation in itself rich in the elements of vegetable life, and favorably constituted for the production of all the cereals and grasses adapted to this climate. This subformation is frequently intermixed with sand. The underlying rock is chiefly the strata of the lower magnesian limestone. Underneath this the bluff ranges display the Potsdam sandstone, especially along the Mississippi and the Kickapoo, where it forms the principal portion of the elevation, capped by the magnesian. The principal water courses have eroded their channels through the limestone, and in many places, deep into the sandstone, which readily yields to their action. The county is regarded as one of the best agricultural districts in the western part of the State. The acreage of its principal productions in 1876 was: wheat, 49,080; oats, 22,463; corn, 17,045; barley, 3,370.

The great hindrance to a more rapid development of this county has been, and is, the want of railroad facilities; but these will doubtless be afforded in time. The present mode of communication with the outer world is by stage lines, which center at Viroqua and, diverging thence, traverse almost every part of the county. There are two lines of stages to La

Crosse, which, running alternate days from Viroqua, make a daily connection with that city. Stages three times a week to Sparta, De Soto, Prairie du Chien and Richland Center. A narrow-guage railroad is contemplated from La Crosse to Viroqua, which will doubtless be pushed through within a few years. Another is talked of up the valley of the Kickapoo, which, when completed, will open a market for the valuable timber and the great surplus of agricultural products of the county. With its abundant water-power, its forests and rich and luxurious soil, Vernon county may justly anticipate a bright future.

EARLY HISTORY.

Upon the approach of civilization this region was in possession of the Winnebago Indians. Their title was extinguished by treaty of November, 1837, by which they ceded all their lands east of the Mississippi, and most of them were removed to Iowa prior to 1846. Before its settlement, the county was frequently traversed along an inland route called the Black river road, from Prairie du Chien to the pineries on Black river, along the dividing ridge upon which Viroqua is situated, by men upon lumbering expeditions. Traders' cabins had been erected at Winneshiek, where De Soto now is; also on the sites of Victory and Genoa villages at a very early date.

In 1844 John McCullough and the brothers, Samuel and Hiram Rice, made the first claims and erected the first cabins, within what are now the limits of the county, near Liberty Pole, in the present town of Franklin. These were soon followed by Henry Sifert and Anson G. Tainter, who settled near them. West Prairie was first settled by the brothers, Levi and Lee Grant Sterling, in 1845, who were not long after followed by Alexander Latshaw, James H. Bailey, A. Vance, Widow Clark and family, George Nichols and William S. Purdy. These formed the nucleus for the settlement of the town of Wheatland.

In 1846, Moses Decker, T. J. DeFrees and John Graham from Mineral Point, located—Decker on the site of Viroqua, DeFrees at the head of the DeFrees branch, on the Black river road, and Mr. Graham, at Springvile, where he commenced the erection of the first grist-mill. James Foster also came at the same time and located on Round prairie. These were soon followed by other settlers, among whom were Thomas Gillett, with his sons, William, Rufus, Jerome, Ransom P. and Abram; also, Nicholas Vought, James Cook, George Dawson and J. Shields, all of whom took up claims near the site of Viroqua; and by the brothers, William C., Samuel and Robert S. McMichael, Charles and Henry Waters, who settled at or near Springville.

About this time (1846) Ira Stevens located at Victory. Willard Spaulding built the first dwelling where the village of Genoa now stands, and Daniel Reed erected the first saw-mill at Readstown, in the present town of Kickapoo, about the year 1849. Albert Field was one of the first settlers in the town of Hillsborough, in the year 1850 or 1851. A Mr. Gill first located on Coon Prairie. He was soon followed by a few enterprising Norwegians, among whom were Even Olson, Torsten Olson, Gabriel Nelson, P. Peterson and Peter Oleson Brye, who were the pioneers of a class of citizens whose industry and perseverance have done much to develope the resources of the county.

The early settlers were subject to all the inconveniences and privations attending the establishment of new communities in remote sections of the country. They had at first to go to Prairie du Chien for provisions and supplies, and were obliged to perform a journey of 100 miles for that purpose.

The state of society then, though not cultured or fashionable, was far from being rude or unpleasant. A cordial feeling pervaded the little settlements. The settlers were always ready to assist each other, and always extended

the hand of "welcome" to new arrivals. The "latch-string" was always outside the cabin door, and hos pitality was a characteristic of all. These early settlers were not without their amusements, and social intercourse was not restrained by fashion or organization divided by distinctions.

The act which created Bad Ax county provided also for its organization, to take effect on the third Monday in May, 1851. An election was authorized to be held on the first Tuesday in April of that year, for town and county officers. The entire county was erected into one town, to remain such until the board of supervisors should see fit to divide it into three or more towns, and the persons who should be elected supervisors, clerk, and treasurer for the town thus established were directed to act as county officers in a corresponding capacity. The first county officers chosen in accordance with these provisions were : Thomas J. DeFrees, county judge ; Orrin Wisel, clerk of the court and county board of supervisors ; John Longly, county treasurer ; Jacob Higgins, register of deeds; Samuel McMichael, surveyor.

The first term of circuit court was held in a log school house at Viroqua, by Judge Wiram Knowlton, commencing on the third Monday of May, 1851, before whom the county officers elect were duly qualified, thus perfecting the organization.

COUNTY SEAT.

The act of 1851 provided that the county seat should be at such place as the board of supervisors should designate, until permanently located by vote of the people. Viroqua was thus designated, and became the permanent county seat, by vote of the people at an election held May 25, 1852, in pursuance of the laws of that year. A voting precinct was established at Round Prairie in 1847, by the commissioners of Crawford county, which was the only civil organization within its limits previous to 1851.

The first lawyer who established himself in this county was William F. Terhune. He came to Viroqua in August, 1851, where he received the appointment of Orrin Wisel's deputy, and kept the records of the clerk of the circuit court and county clerk's offices. Soon after him came Dr. H. G. Weeden, the first physician who located within its limits. Drs. Houghton and Osgood, from Boston, Mass., settled in De Soto in 1854, where they found three French traders, by the name of Godfrey. James Lawrence came about the same time, from England, and settled at Liberty Pole. Dr. Osgood built, in the fall of 1855, the first frame house in De Soto. Dr. Houghton opened a store there, and in the fall of 1855 Whiting & Valentine built and opened another. The first school in this section of the county was kept by Dr. Osgood's daughter, Ruth, now Mrs. Wait, of Viroqua. The largest immigration into the county took place in 1854 and 1855, the majority of the settlers being from Ohio. In 1845 a delegation of Mormons, looking for a future home, passed through the county, and cut out what is known as the Black river road, extending into La Crosse county, to what is known as Mormon coulee (ravine), where they settled for a short time. In 1849 Judge Purdy blazed a road to Port Andrew, on the Wisconsin river, having started with a companion from the Kickapoo river. The land was occupied in those early days under the "squatter sovereignty law."

The closing engagement of the Black Hawk war of 1831, known as the battle of Bad Ax, took place within the limits of Vernon county, a short distance below the mouth of Bad Ax river, on the banks of the Mississippi, where there empties into it a small stream, since known as Battle creek.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

The district schools of this county, under the charge of O. B. Wyman, county superintendent, are in a very flourishing condition. There are 145 school houses, valued at $45,000, and nearly all good, substantial buildings—each of the 145 districts of the county having one.

There are two high schools in the county, one at Hillsborough, at present under the management of Mr. Setzenfand; the other at Viroqua, Rev. William Houghton, principal. These schools have been only recently opened; but they are already doing a good educational work in the county.

There are Congregational churches at De-Soto, Mt. Sterling, Bishop's corners and Viroqua; Methodist, at De Soto, Red Mound, West Prairie, Liberty Pole, Mt. Sterling, Viroqua and Hillsborough; Baptist, at De Soto, Harmony and Hillsborough; Catholic, at Rising Sun; Advent, at Liberty Pole; Disciples, at Viroqua; United Brethren, at Harmony; and two Lutheran—(1.) the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Coon Prairie, town of Viroqua, and (2.) the Northern Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Coon Prairie, town of Christiana. The first has about 25[illegible] families, and church property valued at $25,000. The second has about 70 families, and church property valued $3,000.

VILLAGES.

Viroqua, the county seat, is situated on the "divide" between the waters of the Kickapoo and the Mississippi, on sections 31 and 32, township 12 range 4 west. It is distant from Sparta, thirty miles; from LaCrosse, thirty-five miles, and from Prairie du Chien forty-eight miles, and has about 600 inhabitants. It was incorporated by act of the Legislature approved March 31, 1866. The village was laid out in 1850, by Moses Decker, proprietor, and Samuel McMichael, surveyor. Here was built the first frame dwelling in the county, by Messrs. Terhune and Ballard and here was opened the first school taught in the county, by Mrs. Margaret Terhune.* The school was started by subscription at a certain price per pupil, there being then no school-district organization. The village was visited in 1865 by a terrible tornado, which entirely swept away the lower portion of the town, and in which a large number of lives were lost. It has now two hotels, three churches, a high school and graded district school, six stores, three wagon and blacksmith shops and one furniture manufactory. Its growth has been slow, but substantial, and its progress has scarcely equalled that of the surrounding country. The other villages in the county are Chaseburg, Hillsborough, DeSoto, Springville and Victory, all of which have made moderate but substantial progress.

* This should read, the first taught in the village.

VIII.—FROM THE DE SOTO REPUBLICAN, 1870.

The village of De Soto has the honor of being situated in portions of two counties, namely: the southwest corner of Vernon and the northwest corner of Crawford counties. Whether or not the boundaries were thus extended with the expectation that at some future day the village would expand to such immense magnitude that one county alone could not contain it, we are not informed.

At a remote period, when steamboats were looked upon by the dirty-faced ignoramuses of the forest as an evil spirit from the dark regions of the other world, which came forth to walk upon the water, and with its thundering voice awake the echoes of the valley, and disturb the slumbers of the little ignoramuses, commonly caled papooses, the place was called "Winneshiek Landing." This name, we presume, was bestowed in order to the better perpetuation of the memory of an antiquated Indian chief, who had undoubtedly, displayed much of the bravery so characteristic of his race, by murdering hundreds of white men and women, and knocking the bark off the trees with the heads of little innocent children as an after-dinner amusement. The bones of this proud and haughty copper-colored individual are, we are happy to announce, mouldering to dust on the summit of an adjacent bluff, and the name of the village was long since changed to De Soto, in honor of the the renowned voyager who first discovered the mighty Mississippi river.

The village of De Soto is beautifully located in a wide valley, with majestic bluffs towering toward the sky on the north and south sides. A spring branch of pure and sparkling water courses its way down through the valley. There are good roads leading into the country, and they are extensively traveled by those who do their marketing at this point. The village was laid out in the spring of 1854, by Dr. E. B. Houghton, a former resident of Lansing, Iowa, who purchased the land from John Mobley. The first settlers were Dr. Houghton, J. Osgood, S. D. Powers, and C. B. Worth, the latter being the only one of the first families now (1870) residing here.

At that time, the only building here was an old log cabin previously built by a French trader. This was called a hotel, and named the Winneshiek House. Here the pioneers boarded and spent their leisure time in playing euchre and other games for the hickory nuts. Capt. J. B. Wilcox built what could really be called the first house, in the fall of 1854. Mr. S. G. Wait now (1870) resides in the house. Dr. Houghton opened the first store; Capt. Worth the second; and if the tales which are told of those primitive days are to be believed, we are led to the conclusion that a more roystering, jolly lot of hardy pioneers never got together.

In 1855, other eastern people began to arrive, and new buildings were put up, and the place began to assume the appearance of a lively settlement. The principal steamboat landing was at Victory, where old Uncle Berry used to charge twenty cents a pound for mouldy crackers, and fifty cents for storing a trunk a few hours in a building without siding, roof or floor.

The large steam saw mill built by S. N. Cate & Co., of Maine, was put up in 1858, and run until the fall of 1861, when the company failed. This mill furnished settlers building materials. Stores, dwellings, and warehouses were erected, and De Soto, in her prosperity became noted as an active business point. Like all new towns, there came a day when prosperity for a time ceased, and little or no advancement was made. But that time has passed and "progression" is now the watchword.

De Soto is about equi-distant between Prairie du Chien and LaCrosse. The principal business part of the town is in Vernon county, the county seat of which is Viroqua, twenty-five miles distant in the interior. A drive of about three miles over a fine valley road, brings you to a nice upland farming country, which contains many highly cultivated farms. Wood and water is abundant; and better facilities for making a good, comfortable home, cannot be found anywhere. Lansing, Iowa, is situated on the opposite side of the river, about four miles down stream, connections with which place are made during navigation, by a steam ferry-boat, and in the winter, nature supplies a bridge of ice for crossing.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VERNON COUNTY ONCE SIOUX TERRITORY.

[A paper read by Alfred Brunson before the Ministerial Association of the Methodist Church, held at Viroqua, Sept. 7, 1858.]

History is among the most pleasing and entertaining of human studies. By it we converse and become familiar with men and things of ages long in the past, and live, as it were, from the beginning of time to the present hour; but we cannot extend our researches into the future. History relates to the past. Prophecy to the future.

History embraces the biography of men and Nations; their ups and downs, rise and fall, detailing the incidents which *have* been, the changes which have occurred, the improvements which have been made, and when known, the *reasons* therefor, which is the *philosophy* of history.

There are, however, many things of interest on the face of the earth of which we have no history, for the reason that none has reached us, if any was ever written; of such we can can only draw inferences of their causes from the effects which lie before us. Such is the case in reference to the ancient tumuli which abound to an unknown extent in the western States, but in none of them more numerously than in our own.

Their forms, and the materials of which they are made, clearly indicate the work of human hands, and intelligence and design on the part of the builders. The forts and fortifications indicate the existence of wars among them, and that the combatants had more or less knowledge of military science. In some of them the existence of something like brick or pottery indicates some advances in the arts of civilization, much more so than anything found among the aborigines which the Anglo-Saxon race found in the country. But the present race of Indians have no traditions of the people who made these mounds nor of the design for which they were built.

The age in which these builders lived, or the distance of time from the present, is inferred from the age of trees found growing in the mounds, some of which, from their annual rings, are supposed to be 400 years old. But who were the builders, whence they came, whither they went, or by what means they became extinct, lies in the impenetrable darkness of the past, and is not likely to be known in time. But there is an interest excited in the mind on seeing these ancient works, a written history of which would highly gratify, if it were authentic, or believed so to be. This interest in *us* shows the duty to the future, to record what we know of the past or present, for its edification, as we would that others should have done unto us, even so we should do to those who are to follow us.

As the matter relative to these mounds now stands, conjecture alone can answer the inquiries of the antiquarian, which in most cases is as unsatisfactory as the total darkness in which the history of those times is now enveloped. Some have thought that these mounds were thrown up as monuments over the distinguished dead, and have inferred this from the fact that in *some* of them relics have been found. But

as the most and the largest of them, on examination, are found to contain no such remains, the inference is not well founded.

That human bones and *Indian* relics have been found in *some* of them of late years is no proof that they were erected for places of interment; for since the whites have been in the country, our modern Indians have been in the habit, more or less, of burying *their* dead in them, and frequently guns, axes, kettles, etc., have been found with the bones—and sometimes without them—which shows that the interment took place since the whites came to the continent, and the fact that such metallic substances have been found without the bones, shows that if men were buried there at first, *their* bones could not have continued in a state of preservation until this time.

It is worthy of remark that while in Ohio the most prominent of these tumuli were forts or fortifications in Wisconsin, but few of that description are found. I can now call to mind but one such, that at Aztalan, and in traveling extensively in the State for twenty-two years, I have noticed but few of these mounds south of a line drawn east from the mouth of the Wisconsin river to the lake, while north of this line and between the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers there are probably 1000 of them. In Crawford county alone there are at least 500, one hundred of which can be found in the towns of Prairie du Chien and Wauzeka.

The evidence of ancient mining found in the Lake Superior copper region, with trees on them of 400 years' growth or more, indicating some degree of intelligence and skill, makes it probable that those mines were wrought by the same race of people who made the mounds, and at about the same time; and yet, their being no copper relics found in these mounds, makes it probable that either they had no commerce with each other, or that they were few in number and emigrated from place to place, to avoid their pursuing enemies, and that those mines were their last retreat, from which they disappeared from this country, either by emigration or by being destroyed. The latter, I think, is the most probable.

The earliest inhabitants of the district now included within this State of whom we have positive knowledge, were the ancestors of present Indians of this vicinity, and from the best light I have been able to obtain upon the subject, from Indian traditions, and the earliest history of the country, the Dakota or Sioux were the occupants and owners of the soil of what is now our entire State, together with Minnesota and the northern parts of Iowa and Illinois. This occupancy we can trace back about 150 years, and if the growth of trees on the mounds and mines, which indicate at least 400 years to the time of the mound builders, be a true index, it is very strange that the Sioux have no traditions of them, as there would have been but 150 years between them. This makes it probable that the time of the mound builders was farther back in the world's history than is generally supposed.

Of the origin of the Sioux, or how long they had inhabited and hunted over this country before the whites came to it, we have no means of determining. They claim, and their traditions, together with the traditions of the Chippewas and the earliest history of both by the whites, sustain the claim; the earliest occupancy of the country to which any known history or tradition refers.

In 1639, (1634), Nicholet (John Nicolet), found the Pottawottomies in the vicinity of Green Bay. But in 1641 they were at Sault Ste. Marie, fleeing before the Sioux, who claiming the country as far at least as to that point, were driving the intruders from their soil and country. In 1642 a missionary was killed near Kewee-we-na, by the Sioux, as an intruder upon their territory. From 1652 to 1670 the Hurons appear to have been wandering about the country between Green Bay and La Pointe, when they were expelled by the Sioux. In 1667 the Kiskasons, a band of the Ottawas, were driven

by the Sioux from the western shore of Lake Michigan, south of Green Bay.

In 1660 Father Maret and others established a mission among the Sioux, on the Che-goi-megon bay, which lies south of La Pointe. In 1668 there appears to have been a large gathering of the floating bands of the Algonquin or Chippewa race, who were encroaching upon the territory of the Sioux, at this mission, amounting to 800 warriors, for a kind of protracted religious meeting. The Jesuit missionaries coming to the country through Canada, first became acquainted with the Algonquins, and being kindly received by them, of course felt partial to them; and knowing that the Sioux and they were enemies, it would be natural for them to favor their early friends, and gathered them around their mission notwithstanding they were intruders in the country.

Not a Sioux appears to have been there at the meeting, and the preaching was in the Algonquin tongue. But this meeting of the enemies of the Sioux, in their own territory, seems to have aroused them to a defense of this right; and in 1670 they drove all these intruders, with the missionaries who had been the means of gathering them at that place, as far as Sault Ste. Marie. This proves that the Sioux claimed and exercised jurisdiction over the country as far east as Lake Michigan and St. Mary, as late as that period, which they did upon a more ancient right and occupancy of the country.

In 1681 Hennepin was taken prisoner by the Sioux, on the Mississippi, below the mouth of the Wisconsin river, as an intruder upon their country. This shows their claim to the country in that direction.

WHY THE FOX INDIANS LEFT THE LOWER WISCONSIN.

[*By Jonathan Carver*, 1766.]

On the 8th of October, (1766) we got our canoes into the Ousconsin river, which at this place is more than a hundred yards wide; and the next day arrived at the great town of the Saukies. This is the largest and best built Indian town I ever saw. It contains about ninety houses, each large enough for several families. These are built of hewn plank, neatly jointed and covered with bark, so compactly as to keep out the most penetrating rains. Before the doors are placed comfortable sheds, in which the inhabitants sit, when the weather will permit, and smoke their pipes. The streets are regular and spacious, so that it appears more like a civilized town than the abode of savages. The land near the town is very good. On their plantations, which lie adjacent to their houses, and which are neatly laid out, they raise quantities of Indian corn, beans, melons, etc., so that this place is esteemed the best markets for traders to furnish themselves with provisions, of any within 800 miles of it.

The Saukies can raise about 300 warriors, who are generally employed every summer in making excursions into the territories of the Illinois and Pawnee Nations, from whence they return with a great number of slaves. But those people frequently retaliate, and, in their turn, destroy many of the Saukies, which I judge to be the reason why they increase no faster.

Whilst I staid here I took a view of some mountains [Blue Mountains], that lie about fifteen miles to the southward, and abounded in lead ore. I ascended one of the highest of these, and had an extensive view of the country. For many miles nothing was to be seen but lesser mountains, which appeared at a distance like haycocks, they being free from trees. Only a few groves of hickory and stunted oaks, covered some of the valleys.

So plentiful is lead here, that I saw large quantities of it lying about the streets in the town belonging to the Saukies, and it seemed to be as good as the produce of other countries.

On the 10th of October we proceeded down the river, and the next day reached the first town of the Ottigaumies. This town contained about fifty houses, but we found most of them

deserted, on account of an epidemical disorder that had lately raged among them, and carried off more than one-half of the inhabitants. The greater part of those who survived had retired into the woods to avoid the contagion.

On the 15th we entered that extensive river, the Mississippi. The Ouisconsin, from the carrying place to the part where it falls into the Mississippi, flows with a smooth but strong current; the water of it is exceedingly clear, and through it you may perceive a fine and sandy bottom, tolerably free from rocks. In it are a few islands, the soil of which appeared to be good, though somewhat woody. The land near the river also seemed to be, in general, excellent; but that at a distance is very full of mountains, where, it is said, there are many lead mines.

About five miles from the junction of the rivers, I observed the ruins of a large town, in a very pleasing situation. On inquiring of the neighboring Indians why it was thus deserted, I was informed that, about thirty years ago, the Great Spirit appeared on the top of a pyramid of rocks, which lay at a little distance from it toward the west, and warned them to quit their habitations; for the land on which they were built belonged to him, and he had occasion for it. As a proof that he, who gave them these orders, was really the Great Spirit, he further told them that the grass should immediately spring up on those very rocks from whence he now addressed them, which they knew to be bare and barren. The Indians obeyed, soon after discovered that this miraculous alteration had taken place. They showed me the spot, but the growth of the grass appeared to be no ways supernatural. I apprehended this to have been a strategem of the French or Spaniards to answer some selfish view; but in what manner they affected their purpose I know not. This people, soon after their removal, built a town on the bank of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Ouisconsin, at a place called by the French La Prairies les Chiens, which signifies the Dog Plains; it is a large town, and contains about 300 families; the houses are well built, after the Indian manner, and pleasantly situated on a very rich soil, from which they raise every necessary of life in great abundance. I saw here, many horses of a good size and shape. This town is a great mart, where all the adjacent tribes, and even those who inhabit the most remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders. But it is not always, that they conclude their sale here, this is determined by a general council of the chiefs, who consult whether it would be more conducive to their interest, to sell their goods at this place, or carry them on to Louisiana, or Michillimackinac, according to the decision of this council, they either proceed farther, or return to their different homes.

The Mississippi, at the entrance of the Ouisconsin, near which stands a mountain of considerable height, is about half a mile over; but opposite to the last mentioned town, it appears to be more than a mile wide, and full of islands, the soil of which is extraordinary rich, and but thinly wooded.

CONCERNING THE FOX INDIANS.

(By Schoolcraft, 1820.)

The first we hear of these people (the Foxes) is from early missionaries of New France, who call them, in a list drawn up for the government in 1736, "Gens du Sang," and Miskaukis. The latter I found to be the name they apply to themselves. We get nothing, however, by it. It means red earth, being a compound from *misk-wau*, red, and *aukie*, earth. They are a branch of the great Algonquin family. The French, who formed a bad opinion of them as their history opened bestowed on them the name of Renouard, from which we derive their longstanding popular name. Their traditions attribute their origin to eastern portions of America. Mr. Gates, who acted as my interpreter, and is well acquainted with their languages and customs, informs me that their tradi-

tions refer to their residence on the north banks of the St. Lawrence near the ancient cataraqui. They appear to have been a very erratic, spirited, warlike and treacherous tribe, dwelling but a short time at a spot, and pushing westward as their affairs led them, till they finally reached the Mississippi, which they must have crossed after 1766, for Carver found them living in villages on the Wisconsin. At Saginaw they appeared to have formed a fast alliance with the Saus, a tribe to whom they are closely allied by language and history. They figure in the history of Indian events about old Michilimackinac, where they played pranks under the not very definite title of Muscodainsug, but are first conspicuously noted while they dwelt on the river bearing their name, which falls into Green bay, Wis. * The Chippewas, with whom they have strong affinity of language, call their Otagami, and ever deemed a sanguinary and unreliable tribe. The French defeated them in a sanguinary battle at Butte de Mort, and by this defeat drove them from Fox river.

Their present numbers cannot be accurately given. I was informed that the village I visited contained 250 souls. They have a large village at Rock Island, where the Foxes and Sauks live together, which consists of sixty lodges, and numbers 300 souls. One-half of these may be Sauks. They have another village at the mouth of Turkey river; altogether they may muster from 460 to 500 souls. Yet, they are at war with most of the tribes around them, except the Iowas, Sauks and Kickapoos. They are engaged in a deadly, and apparently successful war against the Sioux tribes. They recently killed nine men of that Nation, on the Terre Blue river, and a party of twenty men are now absent, in the same direction, under a half-breed named Morgan. They are on bad terms with the Osages and Pawnees of the Missouri, and not on the best terms with their neighbors, the Winnebagoes.

* This name was first applied to a territory in 1836.

I again embarked at 4 o'clock A. M. (8th). My men were stout fellows, and worked with hearty will, and it was thought possible to reach the prairie during the day by hard and late pushing. We passed Turkey river at 2 o'clock, and they boldly plied their paddles, sometimes animating their labors with a song; but the Mississippi proved too stout for us, and sometimes after night-fall we put ashore on an island, before reaching the Wisconsin.

In ascending the river this day, observed the pelican, which exhibited itself in a flock standing on a low sandy spot of an island. This bird has a clumsy and unwieldly look, from the duplicate membrane attached to its lower mandible, which is constructed so as when inflated to give it a bag-like appearance. A short sleep served to restore the men, and we were again in our canoes the next morning (9th) before I could certainly tell the time by my watch. Daylight had not yet broke when we passed the influx of the Wisconsin, and we reached the prairie under a full chorous and landed at 6 o'clock.

TREATIES WITH THE SAC AND FOX INDIANS AND THE WINNEBAGOES.

Twelve treaties were held at different times between the United States and the Sac and Fox Indians and the Winnebagoes, affecting, immediately or remotely, the territory now included within the limits of Vernon county, as follows:

1. A treaty was held at St. Louis, Nov. 3, 1804, between the Sacs and Foxes and the United States. William Henry Harrison was acting commissioner on the part of the government. By the provisions of the treaty, the chiefs and head men of the united tribes ceded to the United States a large tract on both sides of the Mississippi, extending on the east from the mouth of the Illinois to the head of that river, and thence to the Wisconsin; and including on the west considerable portions of Iowa and Missouri, from the mouth of the Gasconade

northward. In what is now the State of Wisconsin, this grant embraced the whole of the present counties of Grant and Lafayette and a large portion of Iowa and Green connties. The lead region was included in this purchase. In consideration of this cession, the general government agreed to protect the tribes in the quiet enjoyment of their land, against its owns citizens and all others who should intrude on them. The tribes permitted a fort to be built on the upper side of the Wisconsin river near its mouth, and granted a tract of land two miles square adjoining the same. The government agreed to give them an annuity of $1,000 per annum. The validity of this treaty was denied by one band of the Sac Indians, and this cession of land became, twenty-eight years after, the alleged cause of the Black Hawk War.

2. Another treaty was held at Portage des Sioux, now a village in St. Charles Co., Mo., on the Mississippi river, Sept. 13, 1815, with certain chiefs of that portion of the Sac Nation then residing in Missouri, who, they said, were compelled since the commencement of the late war, to separate themselves from the rest of their Nation. They gave their assent to the treaty made at St. Louis in 1804, and promised to remain separate from the Sacs of Rock river, and to give them no aid or assistance, until peace should be concluded between the United States and the Foxes of Rock river.

3. On the 14th of September, a treaty was made with the chiefs of the Fox tribe at the same place. They agreed that all prisoners in their hands should be delivered up to the government. They assented to, recognized, re-established and confirmed the treaty of 1804 to the full extent of their interest in the same.

4. A treaty was held at St. Louis, May 13, 1816, with the Sacs of Rock river, who affirmed the treaty of 1804, and agreed to deliver up all the property stolen or plundered, and in failure to do so, to forfeit all title to their annuties. To this treaty, Black Hawk's name appears with others. That chief afterward affirmed that though he himself had "touched the quill" to this treaty, he knew not what he was signing, and that he was therein deceived by the agent and others, who did not correctly explain the nature of the grant; and in reference to the treaty of St. Louis in 1804, and at Portage des Sioux in 1815, he said he did not consider the same valid or binding on him or his tribe, inasmuch as by the terms of those treaties, territory was described which the Indians never intended to sell, and the treaty of 1804, particularly, was made by parties who had neither authority in the Nation nor power to dispose of its lands. Whether this was a true statement of the case or otherwise, it is quite certain that the grant of lands referred to was often confirmed by his Nation, and was deemed conclusive and binding by the government. The latter acted in good faith to the tribes, as well as to the settlers, in the disposition of the lands.

5. A treaty of peace and friendship was made at St. Louis, June 3, 1816, between the chiefs and warriors of that part of the Winnebagoes residing on the Wisconsin river. In this treaty the tribe state that they have separated themselves from the rest of their Nation; that they, for themselves and those they represent, confirm to the United States all and every cession of land heretofore made by their Nation, and every contract and agreement, as far as their interest extended.

6. On the 19th of August, 1825, at Prairie du Chien, a treaty was made with the Sioux, Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Winnebagoes, Ottawas and Pottawattamies, by which the bonndary between the two first Nations was agreed upon; also between the Chippewas, Winnebagoes and other tribes.

7. Another treaty was held August 5, 1826, at Fond du Lac of Lake Superior, a small settlement on the St. Louis river, in Itaska Co., Minn., with the same tribes, by which the previous treaty was confirmed in respect to boundaries, and those of the Chippewas was defined, as a

Van S. Bennett

portion of the same was not completed at the former treaty.

8. A treaty was made and concluded Aug 1, 1827, at Butte des Morts, between the United States and the Chippewa, Menomonee and Winnebago tribes, in which the boundaries of their tribes were defined; no cession of lands was made.

9. A treaty was made at Green Bay, Aug. 25, 1828, with the Winnebagoes, Pottawattamies and other tribes. This treaty was made to remove the difficulties which had arisen in consequence of the occupation by white men of that portion of the mining country in the southwestern part of Wisconsin which had not been ceded to the United States. A provisional boundary was provided, and privileges accorded the government to freely occupy their territory until a treaty should be made for the cession of the same. This treaty was simply to define the rights of the Indians, and to give the United States the right of occupation.

10. Two treaties were made at Prairie du Chien on the 29th of July, 1829, and Aug. 1, 1829. At the first date, with the Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawattamies, by which these Nations ceded all their lands which they claimed in the northwestern part of Illinois; and at the latter date with the Winnebagoes, by which that Nation ceded and relinquished all their right, title and claim to all their lands south of the Wisconsin river, thus confirming the purchase of the lead-mine region. Certain grants were made to individuals, which grants were not to be leased or sold by the grantees.

By this important treaty, about 8,000,000 of acres of land were added to the public domain. The three tracts ceded, and forming one whole, extended from the upper end of Rock river to the mouth of the Wisconsin, from latitude 41 degrees 30 minutes to latitude 43 degrees 15 minutes on the Mississippi. Following the meanderings of the river, it was about 240 miles from west to east, extending along the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, affording a passage across the country from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan. The south part of the purchase extended from Rock Island to Lake Michigan.

11. At the conclusion of the Black Hawk War, in 1832, for the purpose of clearing up the Indian title of the Winnebago Nation in the country, a treaty was made and concluded at Fort Armstrong, Sept. 15, 1832. All the territory claimed by this Nation lying south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox river of Green bay, was ceded to the United States, and no band or party of Winnebagoes was allowed to reside, plant, fish or hunt on these grounds, after June 1, 1833, or on any part of the country therein ceded.

12. The Winnebago Nation, by the chiefs and delegates, held a treaty with the government at Washington, Nov. 1, 1837. That Nation ceded all their lands east of the Mississippi, and obligated themselves to remove, within eight months after the ratification of the treaty, to certain lands west of the river Mississippi which were conveyed to them by the treaty of Sept. 21, 1832.

A SEQUEL TO THE GREAT INDIAN TREATY OF 1829.

(*By Caleb Atwater.*)

On the day we delivered the goods to the Winnebagoes, after the Indians were all seated on the ground in rows, the chiefs on the highest spot in the center, on benches, clothed in the most sumptuous manner; where they could see and be seen to the best advantage; every tribe by itself; the half-breeds in one place; the full whites in another. As I passed through the open spaces between the ranks, my attention was forcibly drawn to a particular spot by a constant snarling, hissing noise of some miserable human being, whom, on approaching her, I ascertained to be an Indian woman, shriveled, haggard and old, though remarkably neat in her person and dress. She appeared to be about sixty years of age, and scolded incessantly. Some of the goods placed before her, as her share of them, she complained of as being too fine;

others as being too coarse; some cost too much, while others were quite too cheap, and none of them seemed to please her. Wishing, if possible, to please all of them, and especially the ladies; actuated by the best of motives, I endeavored by every argument in my power to satisfy her, that so far as I could do anything towards it, great care had been taken in the distribution to do justice to every individual. I told her that her great father, the President, had specially ordered me, so far as in me lay, to please all, and to see that no one went home dissatisfied. At that moment she returned upon me a volley of epithets too degrading to be repeated, even though applied to myself, as I felt conscious of not deserving them. Turning around to some females who were politely sitting on the ground behind me, I learned the fault finder *was an old maid*, (unmarried men at sixty years of age I will call bachelors, but ladies never), and that the only distinguishing mark of attention she had ever received from any man was a smart blow with a flat hand on her right ear.

As there is no law regulating taste, and sometimes no rational way of accounting for some of its freaks; and as some sights are the aversion of some persons, while the appearance of other objects is equally disagreeable to others; and as I never could endure the ideas conveyed to my mind by a rattlesnake, a heartless politician, an iceberg and a cold hearted woman, I turned away from her in disgust, and never saw her more nor inquired her name, for fear I should remember it. She was the only person who left the treaty ground dissatisfied with the commissioners. To please her it was utterly impossible.

Seated, as I said, upon rising ground on benches, clad in blankets, either green or red; covered with handsome fur hats, with three beautiful ostrich plumes in each hat; dressed in ruffled calico shirts, leggins and mocasins, all new, and faces painted to suit the fancy of each individual, who held in his hand a new rifle, adorned too, with silver broaches, silver clasps on every arm, and a large medal suspended on each breast; the chiefs, principal warriors and head men, to the number of forty-two, sat during the two hours after all the goods had been delivered to the Nation.

Every individual of both sexes in the Nation had lying directly before the person on the ground the share of the goods belonging to the individual. Great pains had been taken to give each, such, and just so many clothes as would be suitable for the owner to wear during the year to come. The clothes were cut so as to correspond exactly with the size of the owner. The pile of clothes for each person was nearly two feet in thickness, the sight of which entirely overcame with joy, our red friends, and they sat, during two hours, in the most profound silence, not taking off their eyes one moment from the goods, now their own. For the first time during my constant intercourse of several weeks with these interesting sons and daughters of the forest, as I passed repeatedly through their ranks, not an eye appeared to see me, not an ear to hear my heavy tread, not a tongue, as always heretofore, repeated the endearing name of "Oconee Kairake," (the good chief), which their kind partiality had given me on my first landing at Prairie du Chien. Their minds were entirely overcome with joy.

The day being far spent, and, as the loading of the canoes, in which they were about to depart, would necessarily occupy some little time, I informed the chiefs and principal men that the time had arrived when we should part to meet no more; that the great gun at the fort would soon be fired to do them honor. With one accord they all arose, and shaking me heartily by the hand, many of them shedding tears on the occasion, they one and all invited me to visit them at their respective places of abode. In a shrill tone of voice Nankaw issued his orders for every individual to arise, take up his or her goods, and repair to the

beach of the river near at hand, and there await the signal from the fort for their embarkation.

In fifteen minutes they were all seated on the sands by the river's edge, where they all sat in breathless silence awaiting the signal, which was soon given. As soon as that was given each chief came forward, shook me again cordially by the hand, accompanied by the warmest protestations of friendship. In a few moments more they were off, covering a considerable surface with their canoes, each one of which carried its flag of some sort floating in the gentle breeze, which ruffled the surface of the Mississippi.

The Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawattamies had received their goods in the same manner as the Winnebagoes; had been treated precisely in the same way, and three guns, one for each Nation, had given them signal to depart, and they had parted with me in the same kind and affectionate manner.

After the departure of the above named Indians, we had the Sauks and Foxes still with us, with whom we had orders to hold a council to ascertain from them "if they would sell their mineral lands, situated west of the Mississippi?" —and if they would sell them, upon what terms?"

Gen. M'Neil, who was in command as a military officer in this section of country, addressed these tribes and was answered by Keokuk on the part of the Sauks, and by Morgan for the Foxes. I regret that the injunction of secrecy rests on these speeches in the United States Senate; otherwise I should take great pleasure in laying them before the reader. Keokuk, in particular, made one of the best speeches I ever heard, and it was admired as such by several members of the Senate. Keokuk, on the part of these Indians, complained to us of certain white men who had settled on the Indian lands along the Mississippi in order to supply persons navigating the river with necessaries, such as poultry, milk, butter, eggs, and above all, cordwood for the steamboats. He complained that the United States had cultivated lands as a garden for the garrison at Prairie du Chien–had erected a mill without leave, on Indian land—and had not fulfilled former treaties with them.

Making them liberal presents, we naturally deferred the whole subject in discussion for the consideration of the government of the United States to act on it; and I take pleasure in saying the government has, since that time done its duty to these sons of the forest.

After arranging all matters with them as well as we could, which occupied several days, they were dismissed in a very friendly manner, as all other Indians had been already, and they immediately descended the river for their homes.

Before leaving this place I wish to make a few remarks of a general nature.

Though I neither am, nor ever pretended to be, a military man, yet I venture a few remarks on some of the military establishments in the northwest.

The fort on Rock Island is commanded by hills on both sides of it, and could not stand an hour against an enemy with cannon posted on the heights.

Why this fort was placed here where it is, no man of sense can tell, if the British were to be the attacking enemy. If this work was intended to protect this frontier against Indians it is in so dilapidated a state that by crossing on the island above the fort, or gliding along in their canoes under the western side of the island, which forms the outside of the fort, the Indians could in any dark night make themselves masters of the garrison in fifteen minutes. Whenever they please they can collect at this point in ten days 4,000 warriors, to contend with 400 soldiers. There is no regular mail connecting this post with the United States and war might be declared for three months, in some seasons of the year, without the garrison's knowing it.

There is a postoffice established here, and in summer the officers sometimes go to Galena for their papers and letters, 100 miles above them

—and sometimes they go to Springfield, in the Sangamo country, a distance of seventy miles perhaps, for their letters. The officers must go themselves, as the soldiers, if permitted to go, would desert the service. Cut off from all the world, that is, the civilized world, during six months of the year, the officers and soldiers lead a life as dull as need be. The officers who have families have established a school for their children, which is doing very well.

Ascending the Mississippi, 200 miles or more above Rock Island, we arrive at Fort Crawford, at Prairie Du Chien. This post, like that at Rock Island, stands near the Mississippi on its eastern shore, and is entirely and completely commanded by the hills on each side of the river. It enjoys, too, a situation so low that nearly every summer, during the dog days, its site is under water from six to ten feet in depth, from the overflowing of the river.

This work is in so dilapidated a state that I presume it is now abandoned for another site somewhat more elevated but nearer the high hill that will forever command it, just east of it. Maj. Garland pointed out to me the spot where he supposed a new fort would be erected.

There is a propriety in placing a military post somewhere, at or near the mouth of the Wisconsin, in order to form a line of posts situated on Green bay, where there is a fort—and in the interior, at the spot where Fort Winnebago is; but what consideration could have induced the government to place a garrison at St. Peters, 300 miles and more beyond a single white settlement—unconnected, too, with any other post in the very heart of the Indian country, I am unable to determine. If this post was intended to strengthen this frontier, it certainly weakens it to the amount of the force stationed there added to an amount of force enough to succor and defend it. If the object was to station a garrison where an intercourse with the Indians, for the purposes of trade, was sought, Lake Pepin, far below it, is the place where it should have been located. As it is, it so happens often that the officers and others who pass and repass between Prairie Du Chien and St. Peters are taken prisoners on the route by the Indians. Unless some one wished to get a good governmental job by getting this post established, then I cannot account for this strange location, and I am equally at a loss to account for the continuance of this worse than useless establishment where it is.

All the officers in the Indian country, who have been there ten years, ought instantly to be relieved by others. Lieut. Col. Z. Taylor, has been in the Indian country constantly with his family, about twenty years. Here he and his lady, who were bred in the most polished and refined society, have been compelled to rear as well as they could, a worthy and most interesting family of children. Col. Taylor commands Fort Crawford, at Prairie Du Chien. Dr. Beaumont and his amiable and accomplished lady; Maj. Garland and his, belonging to this garrison, are doing the same. It is an interesting sight, to see such persons, located as they are, in a fort, on the very verge of civilized life, educating a family of young children. The situation of delicate females, belonging to some of the best families in the Nation, reared in tenderness, amidst all the luxuries and refinements of polished society, now living in a fort, calls for our sympathy and admiration of their fortitude, which enables them to bear with all the ills, and overcome all the difficulties attendant on their mode of living. When I was very unwell, from exposure, miserable water, and the worst of cookery, and worn down too by fatigue of body and mental suffering, I always found sympathy, food that I could eat, and smiles and kindness which touched my heart, in the families I have named, nor can I ever forget the females belonging to the families of Mr. Rolette and of Judge Lockwood, at Prairie Du Chien. Without their kindness towards me, I must have per ished. I do not deny my fondness for woman, because I know that in cases of distress and

suffering, her sympathy and cheering voice, infuse into man new life, new vigor, and new fortitude, and he marches onward with redoubled energy, to climb over every alps that is placed in his way. Living, as these ladies do, amidst dangers, in an Indian country, they are familiarized with them and their animating voice is worth an army of men. I never can forget them, nor their families while I live. Would the government hear my feeble voice, such officers would not be compelled, with their families, to spend all their days, in an Indian country, while others who have known no suffering in the service, are attending levees and gallanting about the ladies at Washington City.

There is something wrong in all this, that I hope will be rectified yet.

At each of the military posts, the officers have established a library and a reading room, at their own expense. Their books consist of useful works, connected with their pursuits. History, geography, mathematics, chemistry and scientific books, are in the library, and the officers and their families are well read in them all. Though they may be uninformed as to the passing events, at the very moment they occur, yet, at unequal periods, their regular files of all the best newspapers published in the United States, are received and read with care. The The *National Intelligencer*, *National Gazette*, all the literary periodicals, worth reading, are carefully perused.

The younger officers were all educated at West Point Academy, and wherever I met one of them, I always found a gentleman, and man of science, brave, active, vigorous, energetic, high minded, honorable, strictly honest and correct in all his deportment. He claimed all that belonged to him, and not one tittle more, of any one. These officers, belonging to the first families in the Nation, educated in the very best manner, are induced by their self respect, to conduct themselves in the very best manner on all occasions. They fear nothing but disgrace, originating in their own bad conduct, and they scrupulously avoid it every where, and at all times. As officers, as gentlemen and as men, I feel proud of them as my countrymen.

I pray them to accept this testimony in their favor, as a small payment towards a large sum, justly due to them, for their good conduct, in every part of the Union, where I have had the pleasure of meeting with them. My only regret is, that this honest, heartfelt approbation of them, is all I have it in my power to bestow, upon persons so worthy. Those who are in actual service on the Indian frontier, deserve more pay than they receive, in a country where every thing is so extravagantly dear. Congress ought to remember these worthy men, and make future provision for them, and to Congress, I submit their case. While those, who shine in every fashionable circle at Washington, under the eye of Congress, are well paid *for their services*, it is to be hoped that others, who undergo nothing but hardships, will not be forgotten, as I know they will not be by the Senate.

Having completed all our business, of a public nature, so far as we could at this place, about the middle of August, as near as I now remember, we concluded to give our friends here a ball on the evening preceding our leaving them. It was attended by all of the respectable part of the people, in the garrison and in the village. It was a most interesting scene. Within the counsel house, where the civilized people were assembled, might be seen, persons of both sexes, as polished and as refined in their manners, as well bred, and educated as well too, as any persons in the United States; and at the same moment, might be seen on the outside of the house, at the doors and windows, looking on and occasionally dancing by themselves, by way of experiment, or to show what they could do as dancers in the open air, as motley a group of creatures (I can scarcely call them human beings) as the world ever beheld. They are a race peculiar to those parts of the upper Mississippi, where settlements were originally made by the French, soon after the conquest of

Canada by the English, under Gen. Wolf. They are of a mixed breed, and probably more mixed than any other human beings in the world; each one consisting of negro, Indian, French, English, American, Scotch, Irish and Spanish blood; and I should rather suspect some of them, to be a little touched with the prairie wolf. They may fairly claim the vices and faults of each, and all the above named Nations and animals, without even one redeeming virtue.

The reader will see that we were on the very confines of civilized and savage life.

The officers and their families from Fort Crawford, and the best families in the Prairie, were all very happy, and we parted with them all in friendship, and retired to rest at about midnight.

THE WINNEBAGOES IN 1816.

In 1816 the Menomonees inhabited the country about Green bay, and their women occasionally married Winnebagoes, but not often. The Menomonees were a quiet and peaceful race, well disposed and friendly to the whites. Tomah, the acting chief of the Nation, was well spoken of by all the traders who knew him.

The principal villages of the Winnebagoes were at the lower and upper end of the lake of that name, with an occasional lodge along the Fox river. At the season that traders generally passed the Portage of Wisconsin, they would find old grey headed Day-Kau-Ray at the Portage with his band. Their village was a short distance from there up the Wisconsin, and the Winnebagoes had villages up the Baraboo river, and several small ones along down the Wisconsin to near its mouth and up the Mississippi. They were estimated at that time by the traders best acquainted with them, to be about 900 warriors strong. Of the Day-Kau-Rays, there were four or five brothers, who were all influential men in the Nation. One sister had a family of children by a trader named Lecuyer, who had married her after the Indian manner. Tradition says that their father was a French trader, who, during the time the French had possession of the country, married a Winnebago woman, the daughter of the principal chief of the Nation, by whom he had these sons and daughter; that at the time the country was taken possession of by the English, he abandoned them, and they were raised among the Indians, and being the descendants of a chief on the mother's side, when arrived at manhood they assumed the dignity of their rank by inheritance. They were generally good Indians, and frequently urged their claims to the friendship of the whites by saying they were themselves half white.

THE WINNEBAGOES IN 1818.

The locations of the different tribes of Indians in the vicinity of Vernon county, in 1818, including also the homes of the Winnebagoes, is clearly pointed out in the narrative of Edward Tanner, published in the Detroit *Gazette* of Jan. 8, and 15, 1819:

"The first tribe of Indians after leaving St. Louis is the Oyiwayes (Iowas). This tribe live about 100 miles from the west side of the Mississippi, on the Menomonee, and have about 400 warriors. The next tribe are the Sauks, who live on the Mississippi, and about 400 miles above St. Louis. They emigrated from the Ouisconsin (Wisconsin) about thirty-five years ago. Their military strength is about 800 warriors, exclusive of old men and boys, and are divided into two divisions of 400 men. Each division is commanded by a war chief. The first are those who have been most distinguished for deeds of valor, and the second the ordinary warriors. They have also two village chiefs who appear to preside over the civil concerns of the Nation. The next tribe is the Fox Indians. This tribe have a few lodges on the east side of the Mississippi near Fort Armstrong and about four miles from the Sauk village. Thirty miles above this, at the mine De Buke (Dubuque,) on the west side, they have another village, and another on Turkey river, thirty miles below Prairie Du Chien. Their whole military strength is about 400 warriors.

They are at this time in a state of war with the Sioux; and as the Sauks are in strict amity with the Fox Indians, and have the influence and control of them, they are also drawn into the war. This war was in consequence of depredations committed by the Fox Indians on the Sioux.

"Prairie du Chien, on which the village of that name stands, is a handsome plain, about half a mile wide from the bank of the river to the bluff or commencement of the rising ground, and out of danger from inundations. In consequence of the serpentine course of the river, the plain widens above and below the village. The soil is a black sand about fifteen inches deep, appearing to be very productive. The foundation is gravelly, containing amber stones susceptible of a handsome polish. Timber is scarce. The upland in the vicinity is very broken, poor and nearly barren. In the settlement are about 1,500 inhabitants, exclusive of the military, who are principally Creoles. As a place of business, it now appears on the decline.

"The river Ouisconsin (Wisconsin) is about half a mile wide—common depth one to four feet—no falls, but generally a brisk current. The channel is subject to change, from the numerous bars of sand which lie in it, and frequently alter their position. In the river are numerous islands, on which grow the principal timber of the country. The banks are generally low and sandy—some plains lined with the common granite stone. The bordering country is very broken, sandy and barren. In the interior the same description will answer. Barren, broken and destitute of vegetation, few places can be found that will admit of settlements. The Winnebago Indians inhabit the country bordering on the tributary streams of both sides of the river. They appear to go abroad for their game, and have no conveniences for dwelling, except a kind of lodges which they carry with them wherever they go. Their territory extends from the Mississippi to the vicinity of Green Bay, and the number of their warriors is 700."

UP THE MISSISSIPPI IN 1819.

[From a "Journal of a voyage from St. Louis to the Falls of St. Anthony in 1819," by Maj. Thomas Forsyth, Indian Agent.]

I set out this morning with a view, if possible, to reach Prairie du Chien, but having no wind in our favor, and current strong, we could get no further than the mouth of the Ouisconsin. Distance to-day, twenty-four miles.

Monday July 5, 1819.—I arrived to-day at 9 a. m., at Prairie du Chien, and immediately the wind sprang up and blew a fresh breeze. This was vexing, as I had experienced five days of head winds successively. I found here awaiting my arrival, the Red Wing's son, a Sioux Indian, who wished to be considered something, with a band of followers. He invited me to a talk, and after relating the loss of one of his young men who was killed by the Chippewas, he expressed a wish that I would take pity on all present, and give them some goods. All this was a begging speech. I told him that I meant to go up with the troops to the river St. Peters, and on my way up I would stop at their different villages, where I would speak to them, and give them a few goods. Here I had nothing to say, as I could not give any goods at this place, because it required goods to give weight to words, and make them understand me well. Yet he is such a beggar, that he would not take any refusal. I got up in an abrupt manner and left him and band, to study awhile. The Leaf, the principal chief of the Sioux, arrived this evening.

Tuesday, 6th.—The Kettle Chief, with a band of Foxes, arrived here to day, to make arrangements with Mr. Partney about selling him the ashes at the different mines. A boat belonging to the contractor, arrived to-day, loaded with provisions for the troops, in twenty-five days from Wood river.

Wednesday, 7th.—The contractor's boat left this day to return to Wood river.

Thursday, 8th.—A young Folle Avoine (Menomonee) stabbed a young Sioux in a fit of jealousy to-day, near the fort. He was in liquor.

Friday,. 9th—The Sioux Indians yesterday seized on the Folle Avoine Indian who had stabbed the young Sioux, and kept him in confinement, well tied and guarded by a few young Sioux; but the Sioux chiefs sent for the Folle Avoine, and made him a present of a blanket and some other articles of clothing, and made him and the young Sioux whom he had stabbed, eat out of the same dish together, thus forgiving and forgetting the past.

Sunday, 11th.—Every day since my arrival at this place, the wind has blown up the river; to-day it came around south and with rain; wind settled at the northwest.

Monday, 12th.—The Red Wing's son is still here a begging. He invited me to talk with him in council yesterday. This I refused as I did not wish to be troubled with such a fellow.

Tuesday, 13th—Much rain this morning; wind southwest.

Wednesday. 14th.—Some Winnebagoes arrived from headwaters of Rocky river, and Portage of Ouisconsin. These fellows are scientific beggars. Wind north.

Thursday, 15th.—Yesterday evening the Red Wing's son's band of Sioux Indians set out for their homes, and I am glad of it, for they are a troublesome set of beggars. The wind blows hard from the north to day, which makes it much cooler than it has been for many days before.

Friday, 16th.—The wind continues to blow hard from the north, and the weather is still cool. Two men arrived this evening from Green Bay in a canoe.

Saturday, 17th.—Mr. Boutillier (Francois Boutillier) arrived here to-day from Green Bay. Mr. Shaw also arrived here to-day from St. Louis in a canoe, having left his horses at Rocky Island. He informs me that he left Belle Fontaine on the 15th ult., that the recruits destined for the Mississippi set out on the day before and may be expected shortly.

Sunday, 18th.—Took a ride out in the country. Found some of the situations handsome, but the farmers are poor hands at cultivation. Flour $10 per cwt.; corn, $3 per bushel; eggs, $1 per dozen; chickens $1 to $1.25 a couple, Butter none made.

Monday, 19th—A little rain, and cool all day. Mr. Shaw left to-day to return home.

Tuesday, 20th—A little rain to-day.

Wednesday, 21st—Winds fair for boats coming up the river, and little rain to-day.

Thursday, 22d—A fine wind up the river to-day, with much rain. The old Red Wing, a Sioux chief, with about twenty of his followers, arrived to-day. This is another begging expedition.

Friday, 23d—The wind is still up the river, with some rain. The old Red Wing and I had a long talk, and, as I supposed, the whole purport was begging.

Saturday, 24th—Having heard much talk about Carreis' claim to land at or near St. Peter's river, and understanding that the Red Wing knew or said something about it last year, curiosity led me to make inquiries of him, having now an opportunity. He told me he remembered of hearing his father say that lands lying on the west side of Lake Pepin, known by the name of the old wintering places, were given to an Englishman; that he is now an old man (about sixty years of age), and does not, himself, remember the transactions. I wished to continue the conversation, but the old man did not like it and therefore I did not press it.

Sunday, 25th—Wind north, and a warm day.

Monday, 26th—Capt. Hickman and family left this place to-day in an open boat for St. Louis. Wind north, and another warm day.

Tuesday, 27th—Another warm day. No news of any kind.

Wednesday, 28th—A boat arrived here from Green Bay.

Thursday, 29th—This is the warmest day I have experienced this season, although there blew a hard wind up the river all day.

Friday, 30th—Yesterday evening the war party of Foxes who had been on a hunt of some of the Sioux of the interior, returned without finding any. Much wind and rain this morning. I returned Mr. Moore $3, which Mr. Aird gave me last September to buy him some articles, which could not be procured.

Saturday, 31st—Wind light up the river; no boats, no recruits, no news, nor anything else from St. Louis.

Sunday, August 1st—Maj. Marston set out to-day early with twenty-seven troops in three boats to garrison Fort Armstrong, at Rocky Island. The boat which brought the settler's goods from Green Bay a few days since, set out to-day to return home. Some rain to-day; weather warm.

Monday, 2d—Thank God, a boat loaded with ordnance and stores of different kinds arrived to-day, and said a provision boat would arrive to-morrow, but no news of the recruits.

Tuesday 3d—Weather warm, with some rain.

Wednesday, 4th—This morning the provision boat arrived. No news from St. Louis. This boat brings news of having passed a boat with troops on board destined for this place. Some of the men say two boats. Some rain to-day.

Thursday, 5th—Much rain last night. Col. Leavenworth is determined to set out on the 7th, if things can be got ready for the expedition to St. Peters. The colonel has very properly, in my opinion, engaged the two large boats now here, with as many men belonging to the boats as will remain to accompany the expedition, their contents being wanted for the new establishment at St. Peters. Without the assistance of these two boats, it would appear impossible for the expedition to go on.

Friday, 6th—Yesterday evening some Frenchmen who would not agree to go any further up the Mississippi, set out for St. Louis in a bark canoe. This morning eight discharged soldiers set out from this place for St. Louis in a skiff.

Saturday, 7th—Every exertion was made to get off to-day, but impossible. A fine wind up the river.

Sunday, 8th—This morning the colonel told me that he would be ready in an hour, and about 8 oclock we set out for river St. Peters. The troops consisting of ninety-eight rank and file, in fourteen bateaux and two large boats loaded with provisions and ordnance, and stores of different kinds, as also my boat; and a barge belonging to the colonel, making seventeen boats; and in the whole ninety-eight soldiers and about twenty boatmen. I felt myself quite relieved when we got under way. We made to-day eighteen miles.

WAR BETWEEN THE SACS AND FOXES AND THE SIOUX.

(I.—By Mrs. H. S. Baird, of Green Bay.)

During the first half of the present century, there existed between different Indian tribes of the north and west, a succession of sanguinary wars. The conflicts between the contending parties were marked by the characteristic traits of cruelty and ferocity of a barbarous race. The tribes engaged in these hostilities were the Sioux, Chippewas, Sacs, Foxes and Winnebagoes. Their battles were not always fought in their own country, nor on their own lands. Whenever and wherever a hostile party met, a contest was sure to be the result; and many incidents connected with this warfare were observed by the early settlers of Wisconsin, one of which I witnessed, and will relate.

In the month of May, 1830, with my family, I visited Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi; we were guests of the late Joseph Rolette, then a trader, and agent of the American Fur Company. One evening, a few days after our arrival, we were startled by hearing the continual and successive reports of fire-arms, apparently on the Mississippi below. The firing continued for an hour or more, and was succeeded by sounds of Indian drums and savage yells, with an occasional discharge of guns.

The family having retired at the usual time, were aroused from their slumbers about midnight, by hearing foot-steps on the piazza, conversation in the Indian language, and finally by knocking on the door and window shutters. Mr. Rolette immediately arose and went out to ascertain the cause of the disturbance, when he was informed that a bloody battle had been fought, and the visitors were the victors, and had called up their trader to inform him of their victory, and to obtain the necessary spirit water to celebrate the glorious event in regular savage style. Their wants were supplied, of course, when they took their leave, but not to sleep; neither could we sleep as the warriors kept up through the night a most horrible powwow, enlivened by savage yells, all plainly within our hearing.

In the morning, we heard the particulars of the savage fight, and during the day witnessed one of the most disgusting and revolting exhibitions that human beings could display.

On the day before the battle, or rather massacre, a war party of some twenty or twenty-five Sioux encamped on an island opposite Prairie du Chien. They were there joined by a few Menomonees, who volunteered to assist their friends, the Sioux. It appears that the latter had previously received information that on that day a party of Sacs and Foxes, their inveterate enemies, would leave their village, situated on the Mississippi, some distance below Prairie du Chien, intending to visit the latter place; and that they would encamp for the night at a regular camping ground, near the mouth of the Wisconsin river.

In the afternoon of that day, the Sioux war party embarked in several canoes, and descended the river. Arriving near the spot where they knew their intended victims would encamp, they drew their canoes on land, and carefully hid them in the thick woods, and then selected a spot covered with a dense growth of bushes, and within a short gun-shot of the landing place on the camping ground. Here, with true Indian cunning, they lay in ambush, awaiting the arrival of the unsuspecting Sacs and Foxes. No fire was made, and the stillness of death reigned in the forest. Nor had they long to wait for the arrival of their foes.

Between sunset and dark the party, in three or four canoes, arrived at the fatal landing place, and dis-embarked. It consisted of eighteen persons, one old chief, one squaw, one boy about fourteen years old and fifteen warriors. Upon landing, the party commenced unloading the canoes. The concealed war party remained perfectly quiet, scarcely breathing, so that their victims might be completely surprised. After all had landed, and while carrying their effects on shore, leaving their guns and war-clubs in the canoes, the party in ambush bounded to their feet, with a horrible yell, and fired a murderous volley at the surprised party, by which all fell except one man and the boy. The former reached a canoe, seized a loaded gun, and discharged it, mortally wounding one of the Sioux; but the poor Sac was soon despatched, and the only one of the eighteen who survived was the boy, who happened to be in a canoe. He seized a paddle, pushed into the stream, and made his escape down the swift current of the river.

After the massacre, all who yet breathed were despatched, and horribly mutilated. Hands, feet, fingers, ears and scalps were cut off, and more horrible still, the heart of the aged chief was cut from his breast, and all taken by the victors as trophies of the bloody conflict.

On the day succeeding the murder, the victorious party assembled, and accompanied by a few squaws, paraded the streets of Prairie du Chien, with the monotonous sounding drum and rattle, and displaying on poles the scalps and dismembered human fragments taken from the bodies of their victims. The whole party was painted with various colors, wore feathers, and carried their tomahawks, war-clubs and scalping-knives. Stopping in front of the

principal houses in the village, they danced the war-dance and scalp-dance, ending with yells characteristic of incarnate devils.

The mangled limbs were still fresh and bleeding; one old squaw had carried on a pole the entire hand, with a long strip of skin from the arm of one of the murdered men, elevated above her head, the blood trickling down upon her hair and face, while she kept up the death-song, and joined in the scalp-dance. After this exhibition, which lasted two or three hours, the warriors went to a small mound, about 200 yards from Mr. Rolette's residence, and in plain sight made a fire and roasted the heart of the old murdered chief, and then divided it into small pieces among the several warriors, who devoured it, to inspire them with courage, and "make their hearts glad."

The whole scene was shocking and disgusting in the extreme, and such a one, we hope, never again will be witnessed in a civilized community.

The incidents just related, occurred in a town containing a civilized (?) population of 600 or 800 inhabitants, under the walls of the U. S. garrison, and within musket shot of the fort. Neither civil nor military authorities made any effort to prevent the exhibition of the revolting and savage trophies of the sanguinary battle. In the afternoon, the party of Sioux warriors embarked in their canoes, and ascended the Mississippi, on their return to their own village, leaving on the minds and memories of those who witnessed these horrible and frantic orgies, recollections not soon to be forgotten.

II.—BY JAMES H. LOCKWOOD.

In 1830 a party of Sauks and Foxes killed some Sioux, on or about the head-waters of Red Cedar river, in the now State of Iowa; and the same season a band of Fox Indians, who resided about where Dubuque now is, had occasion to visit Prairie du Chien on business with the agent, whom they had previously informed that they would arrive on a certain day. An Indian called the Kettle was their chief. It was generally believed that John Marsh gave the Sioux information of the coming of the Foxes, and of the time they were expected; and on the morning of the day appointed for the arrival of the Foxes at Prairie du Chien, a small war party of young Sioux made their appearance here, and joined by a few of the Menomonee young men, proceeded down the Mississippi to the lower end of the Prairie du Pierreaux, some twelve or fifteen miles below Prairie du Chien, where a narrow channel of the Mississippi runs close to that end of the prairie, fringed with small trees, bushes and grass. They knew the custom of the Indians in going up stream to avail themselves of all such side channels, as there was less current in them than in the broad river; and secreting themselves among the bushes, trees and grass, awaited their unsuspecting victims. When the Foxes came within point blank shot, they all fired upon them, killing their chief Kettle and several others. The Foxes finding their chief killed, returned down the river to carry the news of their misfortunes to the tribe, while the Sioux and Menomonees returned home with the tidings of their victory and to dance over it. They passed through Prairie du Chien, and remained a short time here, but for some unaccountable reason, no notice whatever was taken of it.

The signs of several war parties of the Foxes were reported to have been seen on the opposite side of the river during the year; but they effected nothing until sometime, I think, in June, 1831, when a considerable number of Menomonees had collected at Prairie du Chien, and encamped on an island near the eastern shore of the Mississippi, about one-fourth of a mile from the old Fort Crawford. They had obtained whisky enough for all to get socially drunk upon—and it is rare to find a Menomonee who will not get drunk when he has a chance; and they had carried their revels far into the night, until men, women and children were beastly drunk. About two hours before day, a

Fox war party, that had been watching their movements, fell upon them in that helpless state and killed about thirty of them. By this time some of the more sober of them were aroused, and commenced firing upon the Foxes, who fled down the river, pursued a short distance by the Menomonees.

Thomas P. Burnett, the Sub-Indian Agent, was sleeping with me in my store, and it being very warm weather, we had made a bed of blankets on the counter, when about two hours before daylight, we were awakened by the cries of a Menomonee woman at the store door. We let her in, when she told us of the disaster to the Menomonees. Mr. Burnett took my horse and went to inform Gen. Street, the Indian Agent, who lived about four miles above this, and who arrived about day-light and gave the first information to the fort. Although there had been a great firing of guns and hallooing among the Indians, the sentinels had reported nothing of it to the officers; but on hearing of the affair, the commandant immediately dispatched a company of men in boats after the Foxes, but they did not overtake them. The government demanded of the Sauks to deliver up the perpetrators of this deed. The Foxes fled to the Sauks, and their chief, Kettle, being dead, they remained among and amalgamated with them, and have not since continued a separate Nation or tribe. I have always believed this to be the origin of the Black Hawk War. There were, I suppose, other causes of discontent, but I believe that this transaction was the immediate cause of the movements of Black Hawk.

DANIEL M. PARKINSON'S RECOLLECTIONS OF THE WINNEBAGO WAR.

[From "Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin," Vol. II, 1856].

In the year 1822 considerable excitement was created in relation to the lead mines near Galena, and a number of persons went there from Sangamon county, among whom was Col. Ebenezer Brigham, now of Blue Mounds, Dane Co., Wis. In 1826 the excitement and interest relative to the lead mine country became considerably increased, and in 1827, it became intense, equalling almost anything pertaining to the California gold fever. People from almost all portions of the Union inconsiderately rushed to the mining region.

With Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, James D. Brents and two others, I arrived at Galena on the 4th of July, 1827, and on the same day arrived also a a boat from St. Peters, which had been attacked by the Indians a short distance above Prairie du Chien, bringing on board one man killed and two men wounded. In the encounter with the Indians they killed two of them. * * *

Upon the reception of the alarming intelligence of the attack on this boat, and also upon some of the inhabitants near Prairie du Chien and the reports being spread over the country, a scene of the most alarming and disorderly confusion ensued — alarm and consternation were depicted in every countenance—thousands flocking to Galena for safety, when in fact it was the most exposed and unsafe place in the whole country. All were without arms, order or control. The roads were lined in all directions with frantic and fleeing men, women and children, expecting every moment to be overtaken, tomahawked and scalped by the Indians. It was said, and I presume with truth, that the encampment of fugitives at the head of Apple river on the first night of the alarm was four miles in extent, and numbered 3,000 persons.

In this state of alarm, confusion and disorder, it was extremely difficult to do any thing; almost every man's object was to leave the country, if possible. At length a company of riflemen was raised at Galena, upon the requisition of Gov. Cass of Michigan, who arrived there on the second day after the alarm. This company was commanded by Abner Fields, of Vandalia, Ill., as captain, and one Smith and Wm. S. Hamilton as lieutenants, and was immediately put in motion for Prairie du Chien, by embarking on board the keel-boat Maid of Fevre river. On our way up the river, I acted as sergeant of the

company, and we made several reconnoitering expeditions into the woods near the river, where Indian encampments were indicated by the rising of smoke. In these reconnoissances we run the hazard of some danger, but fortunately all the Indians that we met were friendly disposed, and did not in the least sympathize with those who had made hostile demonstrations.

When we arrived at Prairie du Chien we took possession of the barracks, under the prior orders of Gov. Cass, and remained there for several days until we gave way to Col. Snelling's troops who arrived from Fort Snelling. While we remained there, a most serious difficulty occurred between Col. Snelling, of the regular army, and Capt. Fields and Lieut. Smith of our volunteers, which eventuated in Lieut. Smith sending Col. Snelling a challenge, and Capt. Fields insisted upon doing so likewise, but Col. Hamilton and I at length dissuaded him from it. Col. Snelling declined accepting Lieut. Smith's challenge, and immediately sent a corporal with a file of men to arrest Mr. Scott, the bearer of Smith's communication. The volunteers refused to surrender Scott into the hands of the guard but Col Hamilton wrote a note to Col. Snelling, stating, in effect, that Scott should immediately appear before him. Accordingly Col. Hamilton and I conducted Mr. Scott into the presence of Col. Snelling, who interrogated him as to his knowledge of the contents of Lieut. Smith's communication; and upon Mr. Scott's assuring the colonel that he was entirely ignorant of the subject-matter, he was dismissed.

Col. Snelling then addressed the vo'unteers in a pacific and conciliatory manner, which seemed to dispose of the matter amicably; but the colonel, nevertheless, refused to furnish us with any means of support, or any mode of conveyance back to Galena—as the boat in which we came, returned there immediately after our arrival. But for the noble generosity of Mr. Lockwood, who kindly furnished us with a boat and provisions, we would have been compelled to have made our way back to Galena on foot, or as best we could, without provisions. During our entire stay at the garrison, we received the kindest treatment and most liberal hospitality at the hands of Mr. Lockwood. At the time of our arrival at Prairie du Chien, the citizens had in their custody as hostages for the good conduct of their Nation, three Indians, one of whom was the well-known Chief Daykau-ray. He disclaimed on the part of his Nation as a whole, any intention to engage in hostilities with the whites; he was, however, retained some time as a hostage before being released.

During our absence, another volunteer company was raised, commanded by Gen. Dodge, who was constantly in the field with his mounted force, keeping in check the approach of the enemy. During his rangings, he took young Win-ne-shiek, son of the chief Win-ne-shiek, who was detained as a hostage for some time. No farther disturbances of a serious character took place that season; and in the succeeding autumn, Gens. Atkinson and Dodge held a council or treaty with the Winnebagoes. After this we had no more Indian troubles till 1832.

JAMES H. LOCKWOOD'S ACCOUNT OF THE WINNEBAGO WAR.

In the winter of 1825–26, the wise men at Washington took it into their heads to remove the troops from Fort Crawford to Fort Snelling, and abandon the former. This measure was then supposed to have been brought about on the representation of Col. Snelling of Fort Snelling, who disliked Prairie du Chien for difficulties he had with some of the principal inhabitants. During the winter there were confined in the guard-house of Fort Crawford two Winnebago Indians, for some of their supposed dishonest acts; but what they were charged with, I do not now recollect. At that time, as already mentioned, our mails from St. Louis, the east and south, came via Springfield to Galena, and the postmaster at Prairie du Chien sent to Galena for the mails of that place

and Fort Snelling. An order would frequently arrive by steamboat countermanding a previous order for the abandonment of the fort, before the arrival of first order by mail, and this matter continued during the summer of 1826, and until October, when a positive order arrived, directing the commandant of Fort Crawford to abandon the fort, and proceed with the troops to Fort Snelling; and if he could not procure transportation, to leave the provisions, ammunition and fort in charge of some citizen.

But a few days previous to this order, there had been an alarming report circulated, that the Winnebagoes were going to attack Fort Crawford, and the commandant set to work repairing the old fort, and making additional defenses. During this time the positive order arrived, and the precipitancy with which the fort was abandoned during the alarm was communicated to the Indians through the half-breeds residing at or visiting the place, which naturally caused the Winnebagoes to believe that the troops had fled through fear of them. The commandant took with him to Fort Snelling the two Winnebagoes confined in Fort Crawford, leaving behind some provisions, and all the damaged arms, with a brass swivel and a few wall pieces, in charge of John Marsh, the then sub-agent at this place.

The Winnebagoes, in the fall of 1826, obtained from the traders their usual credit for goods, and went to their hunting grounds; but early in the winter a report became current among the traders that the Winnebagoes had heard a rumor that the Americans and English were going to war in the spring; and hence they were holding councils to decide upon the course they should adopt, hunting barely enough to obtain what they wanted to subsist upon in the meantime.

Mr. M. Brisbois said to me several times during the winter, that he feared some outrages from the Winnebagoes in the spring, as from all he could gather they were bent on war, which I ought to have believed, as Mr. Brisbois had been among them engaged in trade over forty years. But I thought it impossible that the Winnebagoes, surrounded, as they were by Americans, and troops in the country, should for a moment seriously entertain such an idea. I supposed it a false alarm, and gave myself very little uneasinesss about it; but in the spring, when they returned from their hunts, I found that they paid much worse than usual, although they were not celebrated for much punctuality or honesty in paying their debts. It was a general custom with the traders, when an Indian paid his debts in the spring pretty well, on his leaving, to let him have a little ammunition, either as a present or on credit. A Winnebago by the name of Wah-wah-peck-ah, had taken a credit from me, and paid me but a small part of it in the spring; and when I reproached him, he was disposed to be impudent about it; and when his party were about going, he applied to me as usual for amunition for the summer, and insisted upon having some, but I told him if he had behaved well, and paid me his credit better, that I would have given him some, but that he had behaved so bad that I would not give him any, and he went away in a surly mood.

A man by the name of Methode, I think, a half-breed of some of the tribes of the north, had arrived here, sometime in the summer of 1826, with his wife, and, I think, five children; and, sometime in March of 1827, he went with his family, up the Yellow or Painted Rock creek, about twelve miles above the Prairie, on the Iowa side of the Mississippi river, to make sugar. The sugar season being over, and he not returning, and hearing nothing from him, a party of his friends went to look for him, and found his camp consumed, and himself, wife and children burned nearly to cinders, and she at the time *enciente*. They were so crisped and cindered that it was impossible to determine whether they had been murdered and then burned, or whether their camp had accidentally caught on fire and consumed them. It was generally believed that the Winnebagoes had

murdered and burnt them, and Red Bird was suspected to have been concerned in it; but I am more inclined to think, that if murdered by Indians, it was done by some Fox war party searching for Sioux.

In the spring of this year, 1827, while a Chippewa chief called Hole-in-the-day, with a part of his band, visited Fort Snelliug on business with the government, and while under the guns of the fort, a Sioux warrior shot one of the Chippewas. The Sioux was arrested by the troops, and confined in the guard-house. The Chippewas requested Col. Snelling to deliver the Sioux to them, to be dealt with after their manner; to which he agreed, provided they would give him a chance to run for his life. To this they acceded. The Sioux was sent outside of the fort, where the Chippewas were armed with tomahawks and war clubs. He was to be allowed a fair start, and at a signal started, and one of the swiftest of the Chippewas armed with a club and tomahawk after him, to overtake and kill him if he could, which he soon effected, as the Sioux did not run fast, and when overtaken made no resistance. The Winnebagoes hearing a rumor of this, got the news among them that the two Winnebagoes confined there (for the murder of Methode and family) had been executed.

During the spring of 1827, the reports about the Winnebagoes bore rather a threatening aspect; but, as I said before, situated as they were I did not believe they would commit any depredations. Under this belief, and having urgent business in New York to purchase my goods, I started for that city on the 25th of June; it then took about six months to go and return. Mine was the only purely American family at the Prairie, after the Garrison left. There was Thomas McNair, who had married a French girl of the Prairie, and John Marsh, the sub-Indian agent, who had no family, and there were besides three or four Americans who had been discharged from the army. Without apprehension of danger from the Indians, I left my family, which consisted of Mrs. Lockwood, and her brother, a young man of between sixteen and seventeen years of age, who was clerk in charge of the store, and a servant girl belonging to one of the tribes of New York civilized Indians settled near Green Bay.

I started to go by way of Green Bay and the lakes for New York, in a boat up the Wisconsin, and down the Fox river to Green Bay; thence in a vessel to Buffalo, and down the canal to Albany, and thence by steamboat to New York city. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the first day's journey up the Wisconsin, I came to an island where were sitting three Winnebagoes smoking, the oldest called Wah-wah-peck-ah, who had a credit of me the the fall previous and had paid but little of it in the spring; the other two were young men not known to me by name. They had some venison hanging on a pole, and we stopped to purchase it. As I stepped on shore I discovered an appearance of cold reserve unusual in Indians in such meetings, and as I went up to them I said, '*bon jour*' the usual French salutation, which they generally understood; but Wah-wah-peck-ah said that he would not say '*bon jour*' to me. Upon which I took hold of his hand and shook it, asking him why he would not say *bon jour* to me? He inquired what the news was. I told him I had no news. He told me that the Winnebagoes confined at Fort Snelling had been killed. I assured him that it was not true, that I had seen a person lately from that fort, who told me of the death of the Sioux, but that the Winnebagoes were alive. He then gave me to understand that if such was the case, it was well; but if the Winnebagoes were killed, they would avenge it. I succeeded in purchasing the venison, giving them some powder in exchange, and as I was about to step on board of my boat, Wah-wah-peck-ah wanted some whisky, knowing that we always carried some for our men.

I directed one of the men to give them each a drink, which Wah-wah-peck-ah refused, and taking up his cup that he had by him, he

showed by signs that he wanted it filled; and believing that the Indians were seeking some pretense for a quarrel as an excuse for doing mischief, I thought it most prudent under the circumstances to comply.

There were among the boats' crew some old *voyageurs*, well acquainted with Indian manners and customs, who, from the conduct of these Indians, became alarmed. We, however, embarked, watching the Indians, each of whom stood on the bank with his gun in his hand. As it was late in the day, we proceeded a few miles up the river and encamped for the night. As soon as the boat left the island, the three Indians each got into his hunting canoe, and the two young Indians came up on either side opposite the bow of the boat, and continued thus up the river until we encamped while Wah-wah-peck-ah kept four or five rods behind the boat. They encamped with us, and commenced running and playing with the men on the sand beach; and after a little the young Indians proposed to go hunting deer by candle-light, and asked me to give them some candles to hunt with, which I did, with some ammunition, and they promised to return with venison in the morning. After they had gone, Wah-wah-peck-ah proposed also to go hunting, and begged some candles and ammunition, but remained in camp over night. Morning came, but the young Indians did not return, and I saw no more of them. In the morning, after Wah-wah-peck-ah had begged something more, he started, pretending to go down the river, and went, as we supposed; but about an hour afterward, as we were passing on the right of the upper end of the island on which we had encamped, I saw Wah-wah-peck-ah coming up on the left. He looked very surly, and we exchanged no words, but we were all satisfied that he was seeking some good opportunity to shoot me, and from the singular conduct of the Indians, I and my men were considerably alarmed. But about 9 o'clock in the morning, meeting a band of Indians from the Portage of Wisconsin, who appeared to be glad to see me, and said they were going to Prairie Du Chien, my fears with those of the men were somewhat allayed. I wrote with my pencil a hasty line to my wife, which the Indians promised to deliver, but they never did, as they did not go there.

This day, the 26th of June, we proceeded up the Wisconsin without seeing any Indians until we came near Prairie Du Baie, when an Indian, alone in a hunting canoe, came out of some nook and approached us. He was sullen, and we could get no talk out of him. We landed on Prairie Du Baie, and he stopped also; and a few moments thereafter, a canoe of Menomonees arrived from Prairie Du Chien, bringing a brief note from John Marsh, saying the Winnebagoes had murdered a man of mixed French and negro blood, named Rijeste Gagnier, and Solomon Lipcap, and for me, for God's sake, to return. I immediately got into the canoe with the Menomonees, and directed my men to proceed to the portage, and if I did not overtake them to go on to Green Bay. I proceeded down the river with the Menomonees, and when we had descended to the neighborhood where we had fallen in with the Indians the day before, we met Wah-wah-peck-ah coming up in his hunting canoe alone, having with him his two guns. He inquired if I was going to the Prairie. I told him I was. He then told me that the whisky at the Prairie was shut up, but did not tell me of the murders, and asked me that should he come to the Prairie whether I would let him have some whisky? I told him I certainly would if he brought some furs, not wishing then to make any explanation, or to enter into any argument with him.

About this time, we heard back of an island, and on the southern shore of the Wisconsin, the Winnebagoes singing their war songs and dancing, with which I was familiar; and so well satisfied was I that Wah-wah-peck-ah was only seeking a favorable opportunity to shoot me, that if I had had a gun where he met us, I be-

lieve that I should have shot him. After talking with him the Menomonees moved down the river, and arrived at the mouth of the Wisconsin about dark without seeing any more Winnebagoes. It was so dark that the Monomonees thought that we had better stop until morning, and we accordingly crawled into the bushes without a fire and fought mosquitoes all night, and the next morning, the 27th, proceeded to the Prairie. I went to my house and found it vacant, and went to the old village where I found my family and most of the inhabitants of the Prairie, assembled at the house of Jean Brunet, who kept a tavern. Mr. Brunet had a quantity of square timber about him, and the people proposed building breast-works with it.

I learned on my arrival at the Prairie that on the preceeding day, the 26th, Red Bird, (who, when dressed, always wore a red coat and called himself English,) went to my house with two other Indians, and entering the cellar kitchen, loaded their guns in the presence of the servant girl, and went up through the hall into Mrs. Lockwood's bed-room where she was sitting alone. The moment the Indians entered her room she believed they came to kill her, and immediately passed into and through the parlor, and crossed the hall into the store to her brother, where she found Duncan Graham, who had been in the country about forty years as a trader, and was known by all the Indians as an Englishman. He had been a captain in the British Indian Department during the War of 1812, and a part of the time was commandant at Prairie Du Chien. The Indians followed Mrs. Lockwood into the store, and Mr. Graham by some means induced them to leave the house.

They then proceeded to McNair's Coulee, about two miles from the village, at the lower end of Prairie Du Chien, where lived Rijeste Gagnier; his wife was a mixed blood of French and Sioux extraction, with two children; and living with him was an old discharged American soldier by the name of Solomon Lipcap. The Winnebagoes commenced a quarrel with Gagnier, and finally shot him, I believe, in the house. Lipcap, at work hoeing in the garden near the house, they also shot. During the confusion, Mrs. Gagnier siezed a gun, got out at the back window with her boy about three years old on her back, and proceeded to the village with the startling news. The cowardly Indians followed her a part of the way, but dared not attack her. On her arrival at the village a party went to the scene of murder, and found and brought away the dead, and the daughter of Mr. Gagnier, about one year old, whom the mother in her fright had forgotton. The Indians had scalped her and inflicted a severe wound in her neck, and left her for dead, and had thrown her under the bed, but she was found to be still alive. She got well, and arriving at womanhood got married, and has raised a family of children; she is yet alive and her eldest daughter was but recently married.

The people had decided not to occupy the old fort, as a report had been circulated that the Indians had said that they intended to burn it if the inhabitants should take refuge there. During the day of the 27th, the people occupied themselves in making some breast-works of the timber about Mr. Brunet's tavern, getting the swivel and wall pieces from the fort, and the condemned muskets and repairing them, and concluded they would defend themselves, each commanding, none obeying, but every one giving his opinion freely.

About sunset one of the two keel-boats arrived that had a few days previously gone to Fort Snelling with supplies for the garrison, having on board a dead Indian, two dead men of the crew and four wounded. The dead and wounded of the crew were inhabitants of Prairie Du Chien who had shipped on the up-bound trip. They reported that they had been attacked the evening before, about sunset, by the Winnebago

*Indians, near the mouth of Bad Ax river, and the boat received about 500 shots, judging from the marks on its bow and sides. The Indians were mostly on an island on the west of the channel, near to which the boat had to pass, and the wind blowing strong from the east, drifted the boat towards the shore, where the Indians were, as the steering oar had been abandoned by the steersman. During this time, two of the Indians succeeded in getting on board of the boat. One of them mounted the roof, and fired in from the fore part; but he was soon shot and fell off into the river. The other Indian took the steering oar and endeavored to steer the boat to the island. He was also shot and brought down in the boat where he fell. During all this time the Indians kept up a hot fire. The boat was fast drifting towards a sand bar near the shore, and they would all have been murdered had it not been for the brave, resolute conduct of an old soldier on board, called Saucy Sack (his surname I do not remember), who, during the hottest of the fire, jumped over at the bow and pushed the boat off, and where he must have stood the boat was literally covered with ball marks, so that his escape seemed a miracle. They also reported that early the day before the attack, they were lashed to the other boat drifting, and that they had grounded on a sand bar and separated, since which time they had not seen or heard anything of the other boat, and thought probably that it had fallen into the hands of the Indians.

This created an additional alarm among the inhabitants. The same evening my boat returned, the men becoming too much alarmed to proceed. That night sentinels were posted by the inhabitants within the breast-works, who saw, in imagination, a great many Indians prowling about in the darkness; and in the morning there was a great variety of opinion as to what was best to be done for the safety of the place, and appearances betokened a great deal of uneasiness in the minds of all classes.

On the morning of the 28th I slept rather late, owing to the fatigue of the preceding day. My brother-in-law awakened me, and told me the people had got into some difficulty, and that they wished me to come out and see if I could not settle it. I went out on the gallery, and inquired what the difficulty was; and heard the various plans and projects of defense proposed by different persons. Some objected to staying in the village and protecting the property of the villagers while theirs, outside the village, was equally exposed to the pillage of the Indians. Others were for remaining and fortifying where they were, and others still urged the repairing the old fort. As the eminence on which my house stood overlooked the most of the prairie, some were for concentrating our people there and fortifying it. After hearing these different projects, I addressed them something as follows: "As to your fortifying my house, you can do so, if it is thought best, but I do not wish you to go there to protect it; I have abandoned it, and if the Indians burn it, so be it; but there is one thing, if we intend to protect ourselves from the Indians, we must keep together, and some one must command."

Some one then nominated me as commander, but I said: "No, I would not attempt to command you, but here is Thomas McNair, who holds from the governor a commission of captain over the militia of this place, and has a right to command; if you will agree to obey him implicitly, I will set the example of obedience to his orders, and will, in that case, furnish you with powder and lead as long as you want to shoot (I being the only person having those

*Ex-Gov. Reynolds, of Illinois, in his volume of his *Life and Times*, thus states the immediate cause of this attack. That somewhere above Prairie Du Chien on their upward trip, they stopped at a large camp of Winnebago Indians, gave them some liquor freely and got them drunk, when they forced six or seven squaws, stupefied with liquor, on board the boats, for *corrupt and brutal purposes*, and kept them during their voyage to Fort Snelling and on their return. When the Winnebago Indians became sober, and fully conscious of the injury done them, they mustered all their forces, amounting to several hundred and attacked the foremost of the descending boats in which their squaws were confined. But this story has since been proven to be without foundation.

articles in the place); but unless you agree to obey McNair, I will put my family and goods into my boats and go down the river, as I will not risk myself with a mob under no control." Upon this they immediately agreed to acknowledge Mr. McNair as commander, and I was satisfied that he would take advice upon all measures undertaken. Joseph Brisbois was lieutenant, and Jean Brunet was ensign, both duly commissioned by the governor. Capt. McNair ordered a move of all the families, goods, with the old guns, to the fort, and it was near sunset before we had all got moved there.

About that time we discovered the skiff of the other keel-boat coming around a point of an island near Yellow river, about three miles distant; but we could not discover whether they were white men or Indians in the canoe, and of course it created an alarm, but in a few moments thereafter, the keel-boat hove in sight and the alarm ceased. It soon arrived, reporting that they had received a few shots in passing the places where the other boat had been attacked, but had received no injury. On this boat Joseph Snelling, son of Col. Snelling, returned to Prairie du Chien. Joseph Snelling and myself acted as supernumeraries under Capt. McNair. The government of Fort Crawford was conducted by a council of the captain and those who acted under him. It was immediately resolved to repair the old fort as well as possible for defense, and the fort and block-house were put in as good order as circumstances and materials would admit. Dirt was thrown up two or three feet high around the bottom logs of the fort, which were rotten and dry, and would easily ignite. Joseph Snelling was put in command of one of the block-houses, and Jean Brunet of the other, with a few picked men in each, who were trained to the use of the swivel and wall pieces that were found and mounted therein; and a number of barrels were placed around the quarters filled with water, with orders, in case of an attack, to cover the roof of the buildings with blankets, etc., and to keep them wet. All the blacksmiths were put in requisition to repair the condemned muskets found in the fort, and, mustering our force, we found of men and women about ninety that could handle a musket in case of an attack.

The next day after taking possession of the fort, J. B. Loyer, an old voyageur, was engaged to cross the Mississippi and go back through the country, now the State of Iowa, to inform Col. Snelling, commanding Fort Snelling, of our situation. For this service Loyer was promised fifty dollars, and furnished with a horse to ride and provisions, and Duncan Graham was engaged to accompany him, for which he was to receive twenty dollars, provisions and a horse to ride; and for these payments, I became personally responsible.

Gov. Cass, who had come to Butte des Morts, on the Fox river, to hold a treaty with the Winnebagoes, learning from rumor that there was dissatisfaction among them, started in his canoe, and arrived at Prairie du Chien on the morning of the 4th of July. He ordered the company of militia into the service of the United States, and appointed me quarter-master and commissary, with the request that I would use my own funds for the supply of the department, and that he would see it refunded; and, furthermore, assumed the debt for ammunition and provisions already advanced, and also the expenses of the express to Fort Snelling, and directed me to issue to the troops a keel-boat load of flour, that I previously receipted for to one of the agents of the contractors for Fort Snelling, who feared to go farther with it.

After these arrangements had been made, Gov. Cass proceeded in his canoe to Galena, and raised a volunteer company under the late Col. Abner Fields as captain, and assigned him to the command of Fort Crawford. Lieut. Martin Thomas, of the United States ordnance department, and then stationed at the arsenal near St. Louis, who happened to be at Galena, came up and mustered the two companies of the militia into the service of the United States;

and contracted with Phineas Black, of the village of Louisiana, in Missouri, whom he found at Galena, for a quantity of pork which was sent up by the boat that brought the volunteer company. Gov. Cass proceeded from Galena to St. Louis to confer with Gen. Atkinson, then in command of Jefferson Barracks, and of the western military department. This resulted in Gen. Atkinson's moving up the Mississippi with the disposable force under his command at Jefferson Barracks. During this time, Col. Snelling came down the Mississippi, with two companies of the 5th regiment of United States Infantry, and assumed the command of Fort Crawford, and soon after discharged the Galena volunteer company, as they could not well be brought under military discipline. But the Prairte du Chien company was retained in service until some time in the month of August, for which service, through the fault of some one, they never received any pay.

During this time Gen. Atkinson arrived with the troops from Jefferson Barracks, having on his way up dispatched a volunteer force under Gen. Dodge from Galena, to proceed by land to the Portage of Wisconsin. When Gen. Atkinson, with great difficulty, owing to the low state of the water in the Wisconsin, arrived at the Portage, he met old grey-headed Day-Kau-Ray with his band, who finding himself surrounded by the volunteers in the rear, and Gen. Atkinson's force of regulars in front, and a company of volunteers from Green Bay, concluded to disclaim any unfriendly feelings towards the United States, and disavowed any connection with the murders on the Mississippi. Gen. Atkinson, on these assurances of Day-Kau-Ray, returned, but ordered the occupation of Fort Crawford by two companies of troops. Notwithstanding these murders of our citizens and movements of troops, the wise men at Washington, with about as much judgment as they generally decide upon Indian affairs, decided that this was not an Indian war.

After the people had taken possession of the fort, and before the arrival of Gen. Cass, Indians were seen in the village, and a guard was sent out to take them and bring them to the fort. They made no resistance, but surrendered themselves, and were brought to the guard house. One proved to be the famous Red Bird, who headed the party that murdered Gagnier and Lipcap; another was Wah-wah-peck-ah, the Indian I had met up the Wisconsin river, and whose conduct had so much alarmed me and my men; the other was a young Indian whose name I do not recollect. There being no charge of crime against Wah-wah-peck-ah and the young Indian, after the United States troops were stationed at Fort Crawford, they were discharged; and Red Bird was retained in the guard house, where he died before he was tried for the murder of Gagnier and Lipcap.

AN INTERESTING EVENT OF THE WINNEBAGO WAR.

On the 1st of September, 1827, Maj. William Whistler, with government troops, arrived at the portage; and, while there, an express arrived from Gen. Atkinson, announcing his approach, and directing him to halt and fortify himself, and await his arrival. The object of the joint expedition of Gen. Atkinson from Jefferson Barracks, below St. Louis, and of Maj. Whistler, from Fort Howard, at Green Bay, was to capture those who had committed the murders at Prairie du Chien, and put a stop to any further aggression. The Winnebagoes were advised that the security of their people lay in the surrender of the murderers of the Gagnier family. While Maj. Whistler was at the portage he received a call in a mysterious way. An Indian came to his tent and informed him that, at about 3 o'clock the next day, "they will come in." In reply to the question, "who will come in?" he said, "Red Bird and We Kau." After making this answer, he retired by the way he came. At 3 o'clock the same day another Indian came and took position in nearly

the same place and in the same way, when to like questions he gave like answers; and at sundown a third came, confirming what the two had said, adding, that he had, to secure that object, given to the families of the murderers nearly all his property.

There was something heroic in this voluntary surrender. The giving away of property to the families of the guilty parties had nothing to do with their determination to devote themselves for the good of their people, but only to reconcile those who were about to be bereaved to the dreadful expedient. The heroism of the purpose is seen in the fact that the murders committed at Prairie du Chien were not wanton, but in retaliation for wrongs committed on this people by the whites. The parties murdered at the prairie were doubtless innocent of the wrongs and outrages of which the Indians complained; but the law of Indian retaliation does not require that he alone who commits a wrong shall suffer for it. One scalp is held due for another, no matter whose head is taken, provided it be torn from the crown of the family or people who may have made a resort to this law a necessity.

About noon of the day following there were seen descending the mound on the portage a body of Indians. Some were mounted and some were on foot. By the aid of a glass the Americans could discern the direction to be towards their position. They bore no arms, and no one was at a loss to understand that the promise made by the three Indians was about to be fulfilled. In the course of half an hour they had approached within a short distance of the crossing of Fox river, when on a sudden singing was heard. Those who were familiar with the air said, "it is a death song." When still nearer, some present who knew him said, "it is Red Bird singing his death song." The moment a halt was made, preparatory to crossing over, two scalp yells were heard. The Menomonees and other Indians who had accompanied the troops were lying carelessly about the ground, regardless of what was going on; but when the "scalp yells" were uttered, they sprang to their feet as one man, seized their rifles, and were ready for battle. They were at no loss to know what these yells were; but they had not heard with sufficient accuracy to decide whether they indicated scalps to be taken or given, but doubtless inferred the first.

Barges were sent across to receive and an escort of military to accompany them within the lines. The white flag which had been seen in the distance was borne by Red Bird.

And now the advance of the Indians had reached half up the ascent of the bluff on which was the encampment. In the lead was Car-i-mi-nie, a distinguished chief. Arriving on the level upon which was the encampment of the Americans, an order being called, Car-i-mi-nie spoke, saying, "They are here. Like braves they have come in; treat them as braves; do not put them in irons." This address was made to Col. McKenney. The latter told him he was not the big captain. His talk must be made to Maj. Whistler, who would do what was right. Mr. Marsh, the sub-agent, being there, an advance was made to him, and a hope expressed that the prisoners might be turned over to him.

The military had been previously drawn out in line. The Menomonee and Wabauckie (Oneida) Indians were in groups upon their haunches, on the left flank. On the right was the band of music, a little in advance of the line. In front of the center, about ten paces distant, were the murderers. On their right and left were those who had accompanied them, forming a semi-circle; the magnificent Red Bird and the miserable looking We-Kau, a little in advance of the center. All eyes were fixed on Red Bird. In height he was about six feet, straight, but without restraint. His proportions were those of most exact symmetry; and these embraced the entire man from his head to his feet.

He and We-Kau were told to sit down. At this moment the band struck up Pleyel's hymn. Every thing was still. Red Bird turned his eyes toward the band. The music having ceased, he took up his pouch, and, taking from it kinnikinnic and tobacco, cut the latter in the palm of his hand, after the Indian fashion; then, rubbing the two together, filled the bowl of his calumet, struck fire on a bit of punk with his flint and steel, lighted and smoked it. All sat except the speaker. The substance of what they said was as follows:

They were required to bring in the murderers. They had no power over any except two; the third had gone away; and these had voluntarily agreed to come in and give themselves up. As their friends they had come with them. They hoped their white brother would agree to accept the horses, of which there were perhaps twenty; the meaning of which was, to take them in commutation for the lives of their two friends. They asked kind treatment for them, and earnestly besought that they might not be put in irons, and concluded by asking for a little tobacco and something to eat.

They were answered and told in substance that they had done well thus to come in. By having done so they had turned away our guns and saved their people. They were admonished against placing themselves in a like situation in the future, and advised, when they were aggrieved, not to resort to violence, but to go to their agent, who would inform the Great Father of their complaints, and he would redress their grievances; that their friends should be treated kindly, and tried by the same laws by which their Great Father's white children were tried; that for the present Red Bird and We-Kau should not be put in irons; that they should all have something to eat and tobacco to smoke.

Having heard this, Red Bird stood up; the commanding officer, Maj. Whistler, a few paces in front of the center of the line facing him. After a moment's pause and a quick survey of the troops, he spoke, saying, "I am ready." Then advancing a step or two, he paused, saying, "I do not wish to be put in irons; let me be free. I have given away my life; it is gone" (stooping and taking some dust between his thumb and finger and blowing it away), "like that," eying the dust as it fell and vanished from his sight, adding, "I would not take it back, it is gone." Having thus spoken, he threw his hands behind him and marched up to Maj. Whistler, breast to breast. A platoon was wheeled backward from the center of the line, when, the major stepping aside, Red Bird and We-Kau marched through the line, in charge of a file of men, to a tent provided for them in the rear, where a guard was set over them. The comrades of the two captives then left the ground by the way they had come, taking with them our advice and a supply of meat, flour and tobacco.

We-Kau, the miserable looking being the accomplice of Red Bird, was in all things the opposite of that unfortunate brave. Never were two persons so totally unlike. The one seemed a prince, and as if born to command and worthy to be obeyed; the other as if he had been born to be hanged; meager, cold, dirty in his person and dress, crooked in form like the starved wolf; gaunt, hungry and blood thirsty; his entire appearance indicating the presence of a spirit wary, cruel and treacherous. The prisoners were committed into safe keeping at Prairie du Chien to await their trial in the regular courts of justice for murder.

LAST ACT IN THE WINNEBAGO WAR.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

WHEREAS, at a court of Oyer and Terminer, held at the village of Prairie du Chien, in the month of September, A. D., 1828. Wa-ni-ga, otherwise called the Sun, and Chick-hong-sic, otherwise called Little Beuffe, were convicted of the offense of murder in the second degree, and the said Chick-hong-sic, otherwise called Little Beuffe, was also convicted of another

offense of murder in the second degree: And, whereas, also it appears satisfactorily to me that the clemency of the executive may be extended to the said convicts without injury to the public:

Now, therefore, I, John Quincy Adams, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the promises, divers other good and sufficient causes one hereunto moving, have granted and do hereby grant to the said Wa-ni-ga, otherwise called the Sun, and to the said Chickh-ong-sic, otherwise called Little Beuffe, my full and free pardon for the offenses aforesaid,

In testimony whereof. I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents. Given at the City of Washington this third day of November, A. D., 1828 and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-third. J. Q. Adams.

By the President;

H. Clay, *Secretary of State.* *

INDIANS UPON THE MISSISSIPPI IN 1825.

(By Schoolcraft.)

Trip to Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi.—Large assemblage of tribes.—Their appearance and character.—Sioux, Winnebagoes, Chippewas, etc.—Striking and extraordinary appearance of the Sacs and Foxes, and of the Iowas, Keokuk, Mongazids' speech.—Treaty of limits. Whisky question.—A literary impostor.—Journey through the valleys of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.—Incidents.—Menomonies.—A big nose.—Wisconsin Portage.

June 23d. 1825. The whole village was alive with the excitement of the surrender of the murderers. The agency office had been crowded with spectators during the examination; and both white and red men saw in their voluntary delivery into the hands of the agent, an evidence of the power of the government in watching over and vindicating the lives and interests of its citizens in the wildest wilderness, which was gratifying to all.

To Gitche Iauba, the chief at the bay of Kewywenon, in Lake Superior, who had been instrumental in producing the delivery, I presented a silver medal of the first class, with a written speech approbatory of the act, and complimentary of himself. In the meantime, my preparations for attending the general convocation of tribes, at Prairie du Chien, were completed. I placed the agency under the charge of Capt. N. S. Clark, 2d Infantry, who had satisfactorily and ably performed its duties during my absence at New York. I had selected a delegation of the most influential chiefs to attend the contemplated council, and all things being ready, and my *canoe-allege* in the water, with its flag set. I embarked for the trip on the 24th. I descended the straits that day, and having turned Point Detour reached Michilimackinac the next morning. The party from Detroit had reached that point the same morning, after traversing the Huron coasts for upwards of 300 miles, in a light canoe. Congratulations on the success that had attended the demand for the Chippewa murderers, awaited me. Some practical questions, deemed indispensable respecting that transaction, required my immediate return to St. Mary's, which was effected on the 27th, and I again embarked at St. Mary's on the 28th, and rejoined the party at Mackinack on the 30th. The distance traversed is about ninety miles, which was four times passed and repassed in six days, a feat that could only have been accomplished in the calms of summer.

We finally left Mackinack for our destination on the Mississippi, on the 1st of July. The convocation to which we were now proceeding, was for the purpose of settling internal disputes between the tribes, by fixing the boundaries to their respective territories, and thus laying the foundation of a lasting peace on the frontiers. And it marks an era in the policy of our negotiations with the Indians, which is memorable. No such gathering of the tribes had ever before occurred, and its results have have taken away the necessity of any in future, so far as relates to the lines on the Mississippi.

We encountered head winds, and met with some delay in passing through the straits into Lake Michigan, and after escaping an imminent hazard of being blown off into the

* Copied from the original pardon.

open lake, in a fog, reached Green Bay on the 4th. The journey up the Fox river, and its numerous portages, was resumed on the 14th, and after having ascending the river to its head, we crossed over the Fox and Wisconsin portage, and descending the latter with safety, reached Prairie du Chien on the 21st, making the whole journey from Mackinack, in twenty-one days.

We found a very large number of various tribes assembled. Not only the village, but the entire banks of the river for miles above and below the town, and the island in the river, was covered with their tents. The Dakotahs, with their high-pointed buffalo skin tents, above the town, and their decorations and implements of flags, feathers, skins and personal "braveries," presented the scene of Bedouin encampment.

Wanita, the Yankton chief, had a most magnificent robe of the buffalo, curiously worked with dyed porcupine's quills and sweet grass, a kind of war flag, made of eagles' and vultures' large feathers, presented quite a martial air. War clubs and lances presented almost every imaginable device of paint; but by far the most elaborate thing was their pipes of red stone, curiously carved, and having flat wooden handles of some four feet in length, ornamented with the scalps of the red-headed woodpecker and male duck, and the tail feathers of birds artificially attached by strings and quill work, so as to hang in the figure of a quadrant. But the most elaborately wrought part of the devices consisted of dyed porcupines' quills, arranged as a kind of aboriginal mosaic.

The Winnebagoes who speak a cognate dialect of the Dacotah, were encamped near; and resembled them in the style of lodges, arts, and geneal decorations.

The Chippewas presented the more usually known traits, manners and customs of the great Algonquin family—of whom they are indeed the best representatives. The tall and warlike bands from the sources of the Mississippi—from LaPoint, in Lake Superior—from the valleys of the Chippewa and St. Croix rivers, and the Rice lake region of Lac du Flambeau, and of Sault Ste. Marie, were well represented.

The cognate tribe of the Menomonees, and Pottawottamies and Ottowas from Lake Michigan, assimilated and mingled with the Chippewas. Some of the Iroquois of Green Bay were present.

But no tribes attracted as intense a degree of interest as the Iowas, and the Sacs and Foxes—tribes of radically diverse languages, yet united in a league against the Sioux. These tribes were encamped on the island, or opposite coast. They came to the treaty ground, armed and dressed as a war party. They were all armed with spears, clubs, guns and knives. Many of the warriors had a long tuft of red horse hair tied at their elbows, and bore a necklace of grizzly bears' claws. Their head dress consisted of red-dyed horsehair, tied in such manner to the scalp lock as to present the shape of the decoration of a Roman helmet. The rest of the head was completely shaved and painted. A long iron-shod lance was carried in the hand. A species of baldric supported part of their arms. The azian, moccasin and leggins constituted a part of their dress. They were, indeed, nearly nude and painted. Often the print of a hand in white clay, marked the back or shoulders. They bore flags of feathers. They beat drums. They uttered yells at definite points. They landed in compact ranks. They looked the very spirit of defiance. Their leader stood as a prince, majestic and frowning. The wild, native pride of man, in the savage state, flushed by success in war, and confident in the strength of his arm, was never so fully depicted to my eyes, and the forest tribes of the continent may be challenged to have ever presented a spectacle of bold daring, and martial prowess, equal to their landing.

Their martial bearing, their high tone, and whole behavior during their stay in and out of council, was impressive, and demonstrated, in an eminent degree, to what a high pitch of

physical and moral courage, bravery and success in war may lead a savage people. Keokuk, who led them, stood with his war lance, high crest of feathers, and daring eye ; like another Coriolanus, and when he spoke in council, and at the same time shook his lance at his enemies, the Sioux, it was evident that he wanted but an opportunity to make their blood flow like water. Wapelo, and other chiefs backed him, and the whole array, with their shaved heads and high crest of red horse hair, told the spectator plainly, that each of these men held his life in his hand, and was ready to spring to the work of slaughter at the cry of their chief.

Gen. William Clark from St. Louis, was associated with Gen. Cass in this negotiation. The great object was to lay the foundation of a permanent peace by establishing boundaries. Day after day was assigned to this, the agents laboring with the chiefs, and making themselves familiar with Indian bark maps and drawings. The thing pleased the Indians. They clearly saw that it was a benevolent effort for their good, and showed a hearty mind to work in the attainment of the object. The United States asked for no cession. Many glowing harangues were made by the chiefs, which gave scope to their peculiar oratory, which is well worth the preserving. Mongazid, of Fond du Lac, Lake Superior, said: "When I heard the voice of my Great Father coming up the Mississippi valley calling me to this treaty, it seemed as a murmuring wind ; I got up from my mat where I sat musing, and hastened to obey it. My pathway has been clear and bright. Truly it is a pleasant sky above our heads this day. There is not a cloud to darken it. I hear nothing but pleasant words. The raven is not waiting for his prey. I hear no eagle cry, come let us go. The feast is ready—the Indian has killed his brother."

When nearly a whole month had been consumed in these negotiations, a treaty of limits was signed, which will long be remembered in the Indian reminiscences. This was on the 19th of August 1825, *vide* Indian Treaties p. 371. It was a pleasing sight to see the explorer of the Columbia, in 1806, and the writer of the proclamation of the army that invaded Canada in 1812, uniting in a task boding so much good to the tribes whose passions and trespasses on each others lands kept them perpetually at war.

> 'Tis war alone that gluts the Indian's mind,
> As eating meats, inflames the tiger kind.
>
> —*Hute*.

At the close of the treaty, an experiment was made on the moral sense of the Indians, with regard to intoxicating liquors, which was evidently of too refined a character for their just appreciation. It had been said by the tribes that the true reason for the commissioners of the United States government speaking against the use of ardent spirits by the Indians, and refusing to give them, was not a sense of its bad effects, so much, as the fear of the expense. To show them that the government was above such a petty principle, the commissioner had a long row of tin camp kettles, holding several gallons each, placed on the grass, from one end of the council house to the other, and then, after some suitable remarks, each kettle was spilled out in their presence. The thing was evidently ill relished by the Indians. They loved the whisky better than the joke.

Impostor.—Among the books which I purchased for Gen. Cass, at New York, was the narrative of one John Dunn Hunter. I remember being introduced to the man, at one of my visits to New York, by Mr. Carter. He appeared to be one of those anomalous persons of easy good nature, without much energy or will, and little or no moral sense, who might be made a tool of. It seems no one in New York was taken in by him, but having wandered over to London, the booksellers found him a good subject for a book, and some hack there, with considerable cleverness, made him a pack-horse for carrying a load of stuff about America's treatment of the Indians. It was called a "captivity," and he was made to play the part of an adventurer

among the Indians, somewhat after the manner of John Tanner. Cass reviewed the book on our route and at the Prairie for the *North American*, in an article which created quite a sensation, and will be remembered for its force and eloquence. He first read to me some of these glowing sentences while on the portages of the Fox. It was continued, during the leisure hours of the conferences, and finally the critique was finished, after his visiting the place and the person, in Missouri, to which Hunter had alluded as his sponsor in baptism. The man denied all knowledge of him. Hunter was utterly demolished, and his book shown to be as great a tissue of misrepresentation as that of Salmanazar himself.

August 21st the party separates. I had determined to return to the Sault by way of Lake Superior, through Chippewa river. But, owing to the murder of Finley and his men at its mouth in 1824, I found it impossible to engage men at Prairie du Chien, to take that route. I determined, therefore, to go up the Wisconsin, and by the way of Green bay. For this purpose, I purchased a light canoe, engaged men to paddle it, and laid in provisions and stores to last to Green Bay. Having done so, I embarked about 3 o'clock P. M., descending the majestic Mississippi, with spirits enlivened by the hope of soon rejoining friends far away. At the same time, Mr. Holliday left for the same destination, in a separate canoe. On reaching the mouth of the Wisconsin, we entered that broad tributary, and found the current strong. We passed the point of rocks called *Petit Gris*, and encamped at *Grand Gris*.

Several hours previous to leaving the Prairie, a friend handed me an enveloped packet, saying, "Read it when you get to the mouth of the Wisconsin." I had no conception what it related to, but felt great anxiety to reach the place mentioned. I then opened it, and read as follows: "I cannot separate from you without expressing my grateful acknowledgements for the honor you have done me, by connecting my name with your *Narrative of Travels in the Central Portions of the Mississippi Valley, &c.*" Nothing could have been more gratifying or unexpected.

22d. A fog in the valley detained us till 5 o'clock A. M. After traveling about two hours, Mr. Holliday's canoe was crushed against a rock. While detained in repairing it, I ordered my cook to prepare breakfast. It was now 9 o'clock, when we again proceeded, till the heat of noon much affected the men. We pushed our canoes under some overhanging trees, where we found fine clusters of ripe grapes.

In going forward, we passed two canoes of Menomonies, going out on their fall hunt, on the Chippewa river. These people have no hunting grounds of their own, and are obliged to the courtesy of neighboring Nations for a subsistence. They are the most erratic of all our tribes, and may be said to be almost nomadic. We had already passed the canoes, when Mr. Lewis, the portrait painter, called out stoutly behind us, from an island in the river, "Oh! ho!" I did not know but there was some other breaking of the canoe, or worse disaster, and directed the men to put back. "See, see," said he, "that fellow's nose! Did you ever see such a protuberance?" It was one of the Menomonees from *Butte des Morts*, with a globular irregular lump on the end of his nose, half as big as a man's fist. Lewis' artistic risibles were at their height, and he set to work to draw him. I could think of nothing appropriate, but Sterne and Strasbourg.

23d. A heavy fog detained us at Caramanis village till near 6 A. M. The fog, however, still continued, so thick as to conceal objects at twenty yards distance. We consequently went cautiously. Both this day and yesterday we have been constantly in sight of Indian canoes on their return from the treaty. Wooden canoes are exclusively used by the Winnebagoes. They are pushed along with poles.

We passed a precipitous range of hills near Pine creek, on one of which is a cave, called by

our boatmen, *L'diable au Port.* This superstition of peopling dens and other dark places with the "arch fiend," is common. If the "old serpent" has given any proofs to the French boatmen of his residence here, I shall only hope that he will confine himself to this river,and not go about troubling quiet folks in the land of the lakes.

At Pine river we went inland about a mile to see an old mine, probably the remains of French enterprise, or French credulity. But all its golden ores had flown, probably frightened off by the old fellow of *L'diable au Port.* We saw only pits dug in the sand overgrown with trees.

Near this spot in the river, we overtook Shingabowossin and his party of Chippewas. They had left the prairie on the same day that we did, but earlier. They had been in some dread of the Winnebagoes, and stopped on the island to wait for us.

In passing the channel of *Detour*, we observed many thousand tons of white rock lying in the river, which had lately fallen from the bank, leaving a solid perpendicular precipice. This rock, banks and ruins is like all the Wisconsin valley rocks—a very white and fine sandstone.

We passed five canoes of Menomonees, on their way to hunt on Chippewa river, to whom I presented some powder, lead and flour. They gave me a couple of fish, of the kind called *pe-can-o* by the Indians.

24th. We were again detained by the fog, till half past 5 A. M., and after a hard day's fatiguing toil, I encamped at 8 o'clock P. M. on a sandy island in the center of the Wisconsin. The water in the river is low, and spreads stragglingly over a wide surface. The very bed of the river is moving sand. While supper was preparing I took from my trunk a towel, clean shirt and cake of soap, and spent half an hour in bathing in the river upon the clean yellow sand. After this grateful refreshment, I sank sweetly to repose in my tent.

25th. The fog dispersed earlier this morning than usual. We embarked a few minutes after 4 A. M., and landed for breakfast at 10. The weather now was quite sultry, as indeed it has been during the greater part of every day since leaving *Tipesage*— i. e. the Prairie. Our route this day carried us through the most picturesque and interesting part of the Wisconsin, called the Highlands or River Hills. Some of these hills are high, with precipitous faces towards the river. Others terminate in round grassy knobs, with oaks dispersed about the sides. The name is supposed to have been taken from this feature. * Generally speaking, the country has a bald and barren aspect. Not a tree has apparently been cut upon its banks, and not a village is seen to relieve the tedium of an unimproved wilderness. The huts of an Indian locality seem "at random cast." I have already said these conical and angular hills present masses of white sandstone wherever they are precipitous. The river itself is almost a moving mass of white and yellow sand, broad, clear, shallow, and abounding in small woody islands and willowy sandbars.

While making these notes I have been compelled to hold my book, pencil and umbrella, the latter being indispensible to keep off the almost trophical fervor of the sun's rays. As the umbrella and book must be held in one hand, you may judge that I have managed with some difficulty; and this will account to you for many uncouth letters and much disjointed orthography. Between the annoyance of insects, the heat of the sun, and the difficulties of the way, we had incessant employment.

At 3 o'clock P. M. we put ashore for dinner in a very shaded and romantic spot. Poetic images were thick about us. We sat upon mats spread upon a narrow carpet of grass between the river and a high perpendicular cliff. The latter threw its broad shade far beyond us. This strip of land was not more than ten feet wide, and had any fragments of rock fallen, they would have crushed us. But we saw no reason

*Sin, the terminal syllable, is clearly from the Algonquin—Os-sin, a stone. The French added the letter o, which is the regular local form of the word, agreeably to the true Indian.

to fear such an event, nor did it at all take from the relish of our dinner. Green moss had covered the face of the rock and formed a soft velvet covering, against which we leaned. The broad and cool river ran at our feet. Overhanging trees formed a grateful bower around us. Alas, how are those to be pitied who prefer palaces built with human hands to such sequestered scenes. What perversity is there in the human understanding to quit the delightful and peaceful abodes of nature, for noisy towns and dusty streets.

> To me more dear, congenial to my heart,
> One native charm than all the gloss of art."

At a late hour in the evening we reached the Wisconsin portage, and found Dr. Wood, U. S. A., encamped there. He had arrived a short time before us, with four Indians and one Canadian in a canoe, on his way to St. Peter's. He had a mail in his trunk, and I had reason to believe I should receive letters, but to my sore disappointment I found nothing. I invited Dr. Wood to supper, having some ducks and snipes to offer in addition to my usual stock of solids, such as ham, venison and buffalo tongues.

ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI IN 1829.

Galena stands on the land we afterwards purchased of the Indians, and is the largest town in Illinois. When we arrived there it had been settled about three years. It contained several taverns, a considerable number of stores, about a dozen lawyers, and four or five physicians, with little to do, as the country is healthy. There were three religious congregations in the place —Methodists, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians. The town is built on the side hill, in the form of a crescent, on the north side of Fever river, and contains, perhaps, 1,000 inhabitants. It is a seat of justice of Jo Daviess Co., Ill., and is situated in latitude about 42 degrees, 30 minutes north. It contains at all times, very large quantities of lead, brought here either as rent to the government, or for sale to the merchants. The superintendent of the mines and his assistant, Maj. Campbell, live here. The latter gentleman and his amiable and interesting lady had been with us on our passage from St. Louis, and they were happy to find themselves at the end of as disagreeable a journey as was ever made on these waters.

Numerous groceries appeared in the town, to us, and two billiard tables were occupied by persons who wished to amuse themselves at billiards.

Mr. James Barnes, formerly of Chillicothe, Ohio, kept an excellent boarding house, and I found many old acquaintances in the town, enjoying the best of health, and they appeared cheerful and happy.

Here we learned that a large body of Indians had already been assembled at Prairie du Chien, for some time, and were in readiness to meet us. Knowing the necessity of supplying them with food, that ours would not reach us for some time yet, and knowing this to be the last opportunity we should find to purchase any food, we purchased 500 bushels of corn, and loading all we could convey, we left this beautiful town on the next day, and departed for our final destination, where we arrived about the middle of July, 1829.

As soon as we were discovered by our red friends, a few miles below the fort, opposite to their encampment, they fired into the air about 1,500 rifles, to honor us. Our powder had become wet, and, to our extreme mortification and regret, we could not answer them by our cannon. Having fired their arms, some ran on foot, some rode on their small horses furiously along over the prairie to meet us where we landed. Amidst the motley group of thousands, of all ages, sexes, classes of society, colors and conditions of men, women and children, who met us on the wharf—Nawkaw and Hoochopekah, with their families, eagerly seized my hand, and I was happy, indeed, to meet them here. During twenty years I had seen them several times, and they recognized me in a moment, among the crowd, and assured me of

their friendship and good wishes. These chiefs of the Winnebagoes and their families pressed around me, and continued close by me until we reached the tavern where we went. There we entered into a long conversation, and they introduced me to their red friends. I assured them of my ardent friendship, and that they and their people should be dealt with, not only justly but liberally: that the President, their great father, was their friend, a warrior like them, and never would do them any injury: that I wished them all to remember what I now told them, and when we finally parted, if my solemn promises thus voluntarily made to them had not been kept to the very letter, I wished them to publicly tell me so. Shaking me heartily by the hand, and assuring me of their friendship, they then appealed to Col. Menard, who heartily agreed with me, in assuring them of our good intentions towards them.

Dr. Wolcott, the agent for the Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawattamies, here met us, and he had been at incredible pains to get his Indians here, where they had been for nearly a month, perhaps. Mr. Kinzy, the sub-agent of the Winnebagoes, whose sub-agency is located at Fort Winnebago, had also come, and with him all the principal persons of that Nation, residing in that direction.

All the Indians with whom we were sent to treat, were represented on the ground, and all that was wanting to begin our councils we urged forward with all the energy that the officers of the government and their numerous friends could muster. The next day, in company with Gen. Street, the agent of the Winnebagoes, resident here, several sub-agents and interpreters, I met the principal men of the Winnebagoes, and we impressed upon them the necessity of keeping their young men under subjection, and arranged with them the outlines of the manner in which our business should be conducted. The talk was a long one and occupied the afternoon. Gen. Street was very zealous in the service of the government.

Gen. McNeil and his officers at the fort erected a council shade, near the fort, and in about three days we were ready to hold a public council, when Dr. Wolcott's Indians informed me that they could not meet in public council until an Indian was buried, and inquired of me if I objected to the burial, to which I replied that I could not object to the burial, certainly. On the next day, to my regret, I learned they would not assemble in council until the Indian was buried, and again inquired, whether I was willing to have the person buried, to which question I replied in the affirmative, when I was informed that the relatives of the deceased would not consent to the burial of the murdered person until they had received a horse, as the compensation for his death. Understanding the difficulty at last, the commissioners gave the horse, the deceased was buried, and the Indians agreed to meet in council next day.

I took some pains to get the murderer and the relatives of the deceased together, in order to have a perfect reconciliation between them. They shook hands very cordially in appearance, but the relatives of the deceased person informed me privately afterwards, that, as soon as the murderer got home with his horse and goods, they would kill him and take his property, which he could better keep than they could until then. If I am correctly informed, they did as they assured me they would, after their arrival in their own country. So that compounding for the murderer only procrastinated for a time the punishment of the crime.

When everything was in readiness for the opening of the council, the Indians of all the tribes and Nations on the treaty ground attended, and requested to have translated to them, severally, what we said to each tribe, which being assented to on our part, the Winnebagoes, the Chippewas, Ottawas, Pottawattamies, Sioux, Sauks, Foxes and Monomonees, half-breeds, the officers from the fort, the Indian agents, sub-

agents, interpreters, and a great concourse of strangers from every city in the Union; and even from Liverpool, London and Paris, were in attendance. The commissioners sat on a raised bench facing the Indian chiefs; on each side of them stood the officers of the army in full dress, while the soldiers, in their best attire, appeared in bright array on the sides of the council shade. The ladies belonging to the officers' families, and the best families in the Prairie, were seated directly behind the commissioners, where they could see all that passed and hear all that was said. Behind the principal Indian chiefs sat the common people—first the men, then the women and children, to the number of thousands, who listened in breathless and death-like silence to every word that was uttered. The spectacle was grand and morally sublime in the highest degree to the Nations of red men who were present, and when our proposition to sell all their country to their Father had been delivered to them, they requested an exact copy of it in writing, the request was instantly complied with, and the council broke. up. Next day we addressed the Winnebagoes, as we had the Chippewas, etc. the day before, and at their request gave them a copy of our speech.

After counciling among themselves, the Chippewas, etc., answered favorably as to a sale, though they would do nothing yet until they had fixed on their terms.

The Winnebagoes appeared in council and delivered many speeches to us. They demanded the $20,000 worth of goods. "Wipe out your debt," was their reply, "before you run in debt again to us."

Our goods, owing to the low stage of the water, had not arrived yet, and the Indians feared we did not intend to fulfil Gov. Cass' agreement of the year before. When our goods did arrive, and they saw them, they then changed their tone a little; but in the meantime, great uneasiness existed,and I was often seriously advised by Nawkaw and other friends to go into the fort, as Gen. McNiel had done. Col. Menard's ill health had compelled him to leave the ground and go to Gen. Street's, five miles (the General calls it three), from the council house. Unless we left the ground, we were told by the Winnebagoes, that they "would use a little switch upon us." In plain English, they would assassinate the whole of us out of the fort. Two hundred warriors under Keokuk and Morgan, of Sauks and Foxes, arrived and began their war dance for the United States, and they brought word that thirty steamboats with cannon and United States troops, and 400 warriors of their own, were near at hand. The Winnebagoes were silenced by this intelligence, and by demonstrations, not misunderstood by them.

When Keokuk arrived, he brought two deserters from the garrison here, whom he had made prisoners on his way up the river. Quasquawma and his son-in-law, Tia-ma, came with Keokuk. It was a season of great joy with me, who placed more reliance on these friendly warriors than on all our forces. Good as our officers were, our soldiers of the army were too dissipated and worthless to be relied on one moment. Taking Keokuk aside and alone, I told him in plain English all I wanted of him, what I would do for him, and what I expected from him and his good officers. He replied in good English: "I understand you sir, perfectly, and it shall all be done." It was all done faithfully, and he turned the tide in our favor.

The goods arrived and also our provisions; Col. Menard's and Gen. McNiel's health were restored and they appeared again at the council house, and everything wore a new aspect. They approved of all I had done in their temporary absence.

On the 29th day of July, 1829, we concluded our treaty with the Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawattamies.

On the 1st day of August a treaty was concluded with the Winnebagoes.

So the treaties were executed at last, and about 8,000,000 of acres of land added to our

domain, purchased from the Indians. Taking the three tracts, ceded, and forming one whole, it extends from the upper end of Rock Island to the mouth of the Wisconsin; from latitude 41 degrees, 30 minutes, to latitude 48 degrees, 15 minutes, on the Mississippi. Following the meanderings of the river, it is called 240 miles from south to north. It extends along the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, from west to east, so as to give us a passage across the country from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan. The south part of the purchase extends from Rock Island to Lake Michigan south of the Wisconsin, the Indians now own only reservations, where they live, which, as soon as the white people settle on all the ceded lands, will be sold to us, and the Indians will retire above the Wisconsin, or cross the Mississippi, where the bear, the beaver, the deer and the bison invite them. The United States now own all the country on the east side of the Mississippi, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mouth of the Wisconsin.

When I have crossed Rock river, after having passed over the interior of the ceded country, I will describe it more particularly.

It remains for me to make a few remarks upon the country along the Mississippi from Fort Edwards upward, and briefly describe Prairie du Chien.

Ascending the Mississippi, the country appeared to rise up out of the river at Fort Edwards, and the hills assume a greater elevation, still, at Du Buque's mine and tomb not far from Galena. From thence upwards, the bottom lands are narrow, the river turns towards the northwest and becomes very crooked, bounded by high hills. Cassville, thirty miles below Prairie du Chien, stands on a narrow bottom, where an opening into the mineral country, in the direction of Mineral Point, presents itself. This easy passage down to the river has located a town here of a few houses, consisting of a tavern, a storehouse for the lead, belonging to the United States; and here a government sub-agent to collect and receive the government's share of lead resides, Maj. Beal.

Opposite to the mouth of the Wisconsin stands Pike's hill, lofty and abrupt, and just above this place, on the eastern bank of the river, begins the low prairie ground on which Fort Crawford and the village of Prairie du Chien stand. The town begins to show itself three miles above the Wisconsin, and extends upwards about nine miles, where it ends. The river is full of islands, and when at its highest altitude in a freshet is three miles in width, from hill to hill. Originally settled by the French, it was once a place of some importance, as the remains of old cellars and chimneys show. That importance is no more, and probably never will be again. Overflowed by high waters, and but little good land near it, without water power, I see little inducement to build up a town here. On the north side of the Wisconsin there is no land on which a town can be located near the Wisconsin, and the south side is preferable for it, where one will, one day, rise up. The town, though, is a seat of justice for a county of Michigan, and perhaps thirty families, besides those belonging to the garrison, reside here. No Indians reside near here, and there is no sort of need of nor propriety in having an agency, etc., here for the Winnebagoes, because Fort Winnebago is the proper place for the agency.

Gen. Street, the agent and near relative of Mr. Barry, the postmaster general, is the present agent, and his residence, I consider to be about five miles above the fort, though I am aware that Gen. Street's estimated distance is only three miles.

The water found by digging in this prairie is not always good, and that in our well was the worst I ever tasted, operating upon the bowels like glauber salts, and I suffered excessively from using it. Even the food cooked in it affected me seriously. The well in the fort is better, and some persons obtain water from springs in the river when it is low. The river

covers all the town and where the fort is in high water. The Mississippi rising late in the season, and subsiding in the summer solstice, this place must be sickly in summer every year, when a freshet takes such a time to appear. In 1829 there was no such rise in the river, of any amount, and the place was healthy.

The only Indians living on this river below this place and near it, are the Sauks and Foxes. The principal town of the former, on the east side of the Mississippi, is situated on the north side of Rock river, near its mouth, and in sight of the Mississippi. Not many years ago this town contained, it is said, 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants. They have sold all the country east of the river Mississippi, and are withdrawing from it to a new town some ten miles west of the old town, and about the same distance from Rock Island.

The principal town of the Foxes is on the brink of the river near Du Buque's mine, and in sight of his tomb, which is erected on a high hill, where the cross on his grave can be seen from the river to a considerable distance from it. Du Buque was an Indian trader and lived and died here.

The Fox town contains twenty wigwams or upwards, and I presume some 200 Indians. I saw but a few acres of poorly cultivated corn near the town, and the wigwams looked shabby enough. Morgan is the principal warrior of this village, as Keokuk is of the Rock river town.

The Sauks and Foxes were so useful to us as auxiliaries, that I feel grateful to them and make a few remarks on their principal men who were with us.

Keokuk, the principal warrior of the Sauks, is a shrewd politic man, as well as a brave one, and he possesses great weight of character in their national councils. He is a high-minded, honor able man, and never begs of the whites.

While ascending the Mississippi to join us, at the head of his brave troops, he met, arrested and brought along with him to Fort Crawford, two United States soldier, who were deserting from the garrison when he met them. I informed him that for this act he was entitled to a bounty in money; to which he proudly replied, that he acted from motives of friendship towards the United States, and would accept no money for it.

Morgan is the principal warrior of the Foxes, and resides at Du Buque's mine on the western bank of the Mississippi. Though less versatility of talent belongs to him than Keokuk possesses, yet he is a brave man and fond of war. More than a year before we were in this country, this Indian general had gone to the Sioux country and killed a woman and three children of that Nation, which act produced the war, then raging between the two Nations. This act has since been dreadfully avenged by a large party, on some twenty individuals of the Foxes.

Tiama, a principal civil chief of the same tribe, is an excellent man, and son-in-law of Quasquawma. Their village is already noticed as being located on the west side of the river, opposite where we lay on an island, at the head of the lower rapids.

Quasquawma was the chief of this tribe once, but being cheated out of the mineral country, as the Indians allege, he was degraded from his rank and his son-in-law, Tiama, elected in his stead. The improvisatori, whose name has escaped my recollection, is a shrewd wit and a very good man, certainly a very amiable and agreeable one. He is highly esteemed by all his people.

Tom, a half-blood, is a great pet among the whites. He speaks prairie-wolf French and a little English, in addition to his knowledge of Indian languages.

Of the above named individuals, and several others belonging to these brave and generous allies, I brought away with me as correct a likeness as I ever saw drawn. Gratitude towards them was my motive for being at the expense of these beautiful paintings which have

gone to London a year since. Like many other expenses I was necessarily put to, I have never received even one cent from the government towards them, nor have I received one cent, either for my expenses or my services at St. Louis, the lower rapids, Rock Island, or Galena. I say this because it has been stated, very differently even on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is not true, that all my expenses were paid by the United States; nor is it true that my services have been paid for by the government at all. In saying this, I do it in justice to myself as I would to do justice to any other injured individual, however humble in the Nation. I am even yet unpaid, but I never will condescend to beg for my pay at the doors of Congress. I did once expect very different treatment from my country.

UP AND DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI BEFORE THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

In May, 1831, Joseph M. Street, Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, left the agency in care of sub-agent, Thomas P. Burnett. The latter reported to Gen. William Clark, superintendent of Indian affairs, at St. Louis, on the 18th of that month, that "the Indian relations among the different tribes of this quarter, have not a very amicable appearance. The threatenings of the Sauks and Foxes, and occasional acts of mischief committed by them against the whites, in the vicinity of Rock Island, have doubtless been communicated to you before this time.

"The Sioux chief, Wabashaw, and a considerable number of his tribe, are now here (at Prairie du Chien). A small party of them who came across the country from Red Cedar, state that within their country north of the line of the purchase of last summer, they came upon a war road of the Sauks and Foxes. They followed the trail leading out of the country several days, and from the signs remaining at their camps, they have no doubt, that three or more of the Sioux have been murdered by the Sauks and Foxes. Among other appearances that confirmed them in this belief, was a painted buffalo robe, such as no Indians in this quarter but the Sioux make or use, cut in pieces at one of their camps. They pursued their trail until they came upon their camp, a few miles north of the old Red Cedar fort; but finding them double their own number, did not make an attack. They say that they have made peace and promised to keep it, and will not in any case be the aggressors.

"Col. Morgan informed me, two days since, that he had sent down to the Sauks and Foxes to send up ten or twelve of their men to see him, and have a talk with him. They were expected here on yesterday, but have not yet arrived. The Sioux are waiting their arrival, and are, I believe, ready to meet them, either as friends or enemies. When they were informed that the Foxes were coming, they put their arms in order. They say that if the Sauks and Foxes come and deport themselves peaceably, they will not molest them, but if they see any hostile manifestations, they will strike them. My own opinion is, that if the Sauks and Foxes have had a war party out against the Sioux, they will not come here upon Col. Morgan's invitation, knowing as they do, that the Sioux always visit this place about this season in considerable numbers.

"A part of the Monomonees have been to see me since Gen. Street's departure. They renewed their promise not to go against the Chippewas for the present, but to wait a while longer to hear from their Great Father."

The squally appearance of Indian affairs called for the watchful attention alike of agents and officers of the army. But it became a question of etiquette, which should take the lead in the matter. The military seems to have claimed that right, while the agents claimed at least to know what had been done in the premises; both being then under the superintendence of the War Department, the military considered the Indian Department as subordinate to theirs. But Mr. Burnett thought otherwise, claiming that each branch of the public service had its appropriate duties with which the other should

not interfere, while in case of necessity one should assist the other, both acting in unison. And as the Sauks and Foxes alluded to in his letter to Gen. Clark, did come to the place, with whom Col. Morgan held a council, without the knowledge or co-operation of the agent, Mr. Burnett claimed to be informed of the nature and extent of the proceedings, and addressed a note, dated May 23, 1831, to Col. Morgan, as follows:

"SIR—I was informed yesterday that you held, on the morning of that day, a council with a party of Sioux and a party of Fox Indians which you had assembled in the village of Prairie du Chien. As the acting Indian agent at this place, it properly concerns me to know what takes place at this post in relation to Indian affairs. I should therefore be glad to be informed of the circumstances that required such council. The objects to be effected, and the results accomplished; also the names of the chiefs or men of influence of either tribe, who were present. Will you please to communicate to me as early as may be convenient, the desired information, and likewise whether Gen. Street was apprised, previous to his departure, of the contemplated meeting of those Indians."

This brought from Col. Morgan the following tart reply, and raised the question of prerogative:

"SIR—I acknowledge in you no right to call on me to render an account of my proceedings to you, though if you will do me the favor to call at my quarters on my return from St. Peter's, for which place I am just about to set out, I will explain to you the object of the council and tell you what passed. You were apprised yourself of the Foxes having been invited, and you knew they had arrived. Why stay four or five miles off? I stated to the Indians that you should have been to the council, if you had been here."

Mr. Burnett informed Gen. Clark of the transaction of Col. Morgan, May 28, 1831; "In my letter of the 18th inst., I informed you that Col. Morgan had sent for the Sauks and Foxes to visit this post. On the 21st inst., about fifteen men of the Foxes, of Dubuque mines, arrived at the village, and on the next day Col. Morgan held a council with them and the Sioux, who were here. I presume that whatever took place at the council, or was effected by the meeting of the Indians, of any importance, will be communicated to you through the proper channel, by Col. Morgan who acted alone in the measure.

"The Sioux had been waiting the arrival of the Foxes for several days. The Foxes landed at the village on Saturday evening, not later I think than 4 o'clock. The council was opened the next morning, as I am informed, at 10 o'clock; yet no intimation of either time or place of meeting, or that my presence was at all desired, was given, although there was ample time to do so. Throughout the transaction, there has been no consultation had, or co-operation had with the agency. The only communication upon the subject previous to the council and departure of the Indians, was the simple fact that he had sent for the Foxes, of which I apprised you. I suppose that if anything occurred of sufficient importance to found a report upon, he will communicate the facts, and in that case, it must appear that the measure was undertaken and carried through without any connection or co-operation with this agency. I have, therefore, given the above statement of facts to show that the absence of co-operation in this affair was not from neglect of duty or inattention on the part of this agency."

The information that I have collected on the subject, is this: "Some fifteen Foxes from Dubuque mines, all young men except one or two, came up and had a talk with the Sioux and Col. Morgan, in which each expressed a desire to continue the peace which had been concluded between them the last year. The Foxes denied any knowledge of a war party having gone against the Sioux. They said they wished to be at peace, and would not do any act of hos-

laughed at me, and I left them in disgust and came home."

Having mentioned and described this old chief, who shared with me the hard winter (of 1809–10) before us, I will proceed in my narrative. Old Red Thunder, with two other lodges of his band, after Ance had been gone a few days, arrived and encamped quite close to my house. A few Indians, in this way, generally wintered about the traders' houses. They had no store of provisions, but hoped, as I did, that buffalo meat would abound. Warned by a former year's sufferings, I kept in store five or six bushels of corn. I and the Red Thunder's boys killed more of the wild fowl than fed us all for awhile. But the marshes were soon frozen over, and that supply was cut off. There were no wolves or small game of any kind in this part of the country; so Red Thunder's people were soon reduced to subsist on the old buffalo hides they had used to sleep upon, perhaps for years.

Under these circumstances, common humanity induced me to share my corn with them, which was becoming daily reduced. In the meantime I, with my men and the Indian boys were constantly roaming about, in hopes of finding something we could convert into meat. One day one of the men found the head of an old buffalo, which some of his race had lost last summer, and with difficulty brought it home. We all rejoiced, in our straitened circumstances, at this piece of good luck. The big tin kettle was soon filled and boiling, with a view of softening it and scraping off the hair; but boiling water and ashes would not stir a hair. We then dried it, in hopes we might burn the hair off; but in vain. We felt sadly disappointed, as we were on short rations, our corn supply drawing near an end.

In this dilemma, Mrs. Red Thunder, almost in despair, took her ax, and started in quest of bitter sweet, or wild ivy; and succeeded in br nging home all she could carry, and reported that there was plenty more. This vine is readily prepared for food. It is cut into chunks from one to three inches long, and boiled until the coarse, thin bark easily separates itself from the stem. The bark then makes at least three fourths of the original quantity; it is spongy, and of a bitter sweet taste. It is quite nutrious; and though one might not fatten on it, still it would preserve life for a long time.

I now took three of the men, and started in the direction the buffaloes usually, in mild winters, travel. We followed the river, and within four or five miles, we discovered a buffalo. Two of the men, being old hunters, said at once, "That's a scabby old fellow, not worth shooting." However, as he was not far off, I said I would try my hand at him. So, taking advantage of the wind, and skulking through the tall grass, his time was come. Crack! went my rifle, and he was down and well out of misery. On examination, it was found that his back and the upper part of his sides were a mass of scabs and blood, where the magpies and other carnivorous birds had pecked and fed, as they do when these animals become too old and feeble to defend themselves.

Proceeding on our journey, we came to a hole in the ground made by an otter, around which he had deposited ever so many poly-wogs, of which it would have been unkind to have deprived him of his food supply. We soon after came upon the tracks of a ground-hog, and soon found his cave. We then went to work to exhume the body, for purposes well known to hungry people in these parts.

As we neared the end of our day's journey—a dreadfully cold day it was—one of the hunters called my attention to a black spot on the hillside, fully a mile beyond our intended camping place. He thought it was a buffalo, and said, "Let's go and see." So I sent the other two men to prepare our night's lodging, while St. Maurice, the best hunter, and I started off with the murderous intent of bagging a big game. We availed ourselves of every means of avoid-

ing observation by our intended victim, so we might get within a safe shot of the apparently sleeping buffalo. At length we reached a little hillock, within twenty yards of what we regarded as more meat than we could carry home. Putting in fresh priming, St. Maurice whispered, "I'll fire as he rises, and you reserve your charge for use in case he runs at us." "All right," said I; and St. Maurice, not to cause too much excitement in the poor buffalo, whom he regarded as about drawing his last breath, gave a gentle whistle, but no movement; he whistled louder and louder, then gave a yell, but still he stirred not. We then went up to him; he was dead, but not quite stiff.

We managed to take his tongue and heart to our camp, which was in some old trader's wintering house. The ground-hog was ready for supper and before bed-time, was nearly all gone. The tongue and heart were nicely cut up, and washed, ready for early cooking in the morning. Whether ground-hog meat acted as an opiate or not, I cannot say; but this I know, we all slept later than we intended, and the wonder was, that some of us were not frozen, for it was bitter cold, and our bedding consisted only of each man's blanket, which it was his privilege to carry, with extra moccasins, etc., on his back, when not otherwise in use.

When I turned out in the morning, the cook had got up a rousing fire, and the tongue—the most dainty part of the buffalo—and a part of the heart, were in the kettle, ready to hang on the fire.

Of course I had no washing tools at hand; pants and socks were found where I left them when I retired to rest—that is, on my legs and feet. A *very* slight rub of snow on the hands and eyes finished my toilet for the expected delicious repast. "Which will you have, sir, tongue or heart?" This directed my eyes to the kettle, boiling over with a black bloody froth, with a sickening, putrid smell. I bolted out of the house, leaving the men to smack their lips on heart and tongue, while I took the remnant of the ground-hog to the open air.

Breakfast over, it was concluded that the non-hunter and St. Maurice should strike out on the plains, while Beaubien, an old hunter, and I should go up the river, all parties to meet at a certain point. When I had reached the place indicated, I cast my eyes around to see if the others were coming, and I noted instead a pair of frightful, infuriated monster eyes— a buffalo of the scabby kind, lying half way up the bank of the stream; his breath had turned to white frost, enveloping his body, so that not a particle of him was visible save his eyes, which were greatly dilated, and apparently bent on mischief. I jumped up on the opposite bank and took my stand behind a tree. In those days I was a good shot. I took deliberate aim and hit him in the temple. He did not appear to feel it. I fired four shots, which brought St. Maurice, and to my delight, a strange Indian with him. I now advanced to old scabby, and hit him to no purpose; one more shot, placing the muzzle of my gun to his ear, gave him motion, for he shook his head, and rolled down the bank dead.

The strange Indian was one of a band, about four days' journey distant, in the buffalo range. The chief's name was Whoo-way-hur, or Broken Leg. I had never before seen him. He was chief of *Les Gens des Perches* band; and his fame for bravery and love for the whites was known far and near. He had come all that distance with peltry to buy a few trifling articles, worth, in fact, a dollar, perhaps; but to him of more value than the most costly dinner set.

I with my party went home, and my customer, of course, with us. Less than half a peck measure would now hold all the corn I had to depend on; and it was worth more to me than the same measure of golden eagles. I knew the perils of long journeys through the prairies in the winter season, I, therefore, asked all my men if any of them would go with our visitor to get some meat. They would all volunteer; but I

ha-ta-kan took the wampum, and said that he with all the young men of the village would go; that they were anxious to engage in the expedition, and would be ready to accompany us on our return.

"The next day we reached Prairie Aux Ailes (Wabasha), and found the Sioux extensively anxious and ready to go against the Sauks and Foxes. They were intending to make a descent upon them in a few days, if they had not been sent for. They engaged with alacrity in their preparations, but we found it necessary to wait till Monday morning to give them time. We left their village on our return, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, accompanied by the whole effective force of the band, and at La Crosse were joined by twenty warriors of the Winnebagoes, the remainder of their village to follow the next day, and reached this place to-day, at 2 o'clock P. M., with 100 warriors, eighty of whom are Sioux and twenty Winnebagoes. I think from the disposition manifested by the Winnebagoes, that fifty or sixty more of them will be here before the expedition leaves the prairie, making a force of of 130 or 140. The Indians with whom I have met, appear well effected towards the whites, are in fine spirits and seem anxious to engage with the Sauks and Foxes.

"I made the promise authorized to the Indians of subsistance, pay, etc., and told them that their families should be supplied with provisions during their absence from home. The most of the families of the warriors have accompanied them thus far, to take a supply of provisions home with them, when the expedition shall have left this place. It is due to Mr. Marsh to say that he has displayed great zeal and energy in effecting the object of our visit, and that his exertions had the effect of bringing out the greatest possible force from the bands we have called upon."

Mr. Burnett greatly desired and strongly urged Gen. Street to allow him to accompany these Indians and take part in the war. But the general thought his services were needed at and near the agency, and, therefore, declined to comply with the request.

In the meantime the Sauks and Foxes retreated from the Rock river to the Wisconsin, where they were routed, "horse, foot and dragoons." The news of this defeat of the Indians soon reached Prairie du Chien, and it was thought probable that if the Sauks and Foxes could get canoes or even rafts, that they would attempt to escape from their pursuers by descending the Wisconsin river. To prevent this, some volunteer troops were stationed on that river at the ferry, now Barrett's. But the Indians took across the country towards Bad Ax.

AN EPISODE OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

As soon as it was ascertained that the hostile Indians under Black Hawk were wending their way to the Mississippi, after the battle of Wisconsin Heights, Joseph M. Street, Indian agent, wrote to Thomas P. Burnett, sub-Indian agent, with a view to adopt means to intercept the savages, the following letter, on the 25th of July, 1832:

"SIR:—You will proceed up the Mississippi to the Winnebagoes, twenty-five or thirty miles above this place, and inform them * * * of the crossing of the Sauks to the north side of the Wisconsin, and that their chiefs Carramana and Decori are here, and that I want all of the Winnebagoes to come down with you immediately; tell them it is the wish of their chiefs also. One object of this is, to get them out of the way, with their canoes, to prevent their crossing the Sauks over the river. Send on word, if you can, to the upper villages, that the Sauks have been defeated, and have crossed the Wisconsin. And should the Winnebagoes hesitate, tell them that if they do not come, I will not pay the annuity to any who refuse. The time is now near and they will lose their money. Hasten back as soon as possible."

The next day, July 26th, Mr. Burnett reported: "Sir:—In obedience of your order of yesterday, I set out from this place in a bark canoe late last evening to visit the Winnebagoes, supposed

to be encamped twenty-five or thirty miles above Prairie du Chien. This morning before day the steamboat enterprise, with a military command, came by my encampment and took myself and crew on board. Before arriving at the place where the Indians had been encamped, we found that they had been gone for several days, and had removed some distance above.

"We therefore continued on up a considerable distance, passing several lodges at different points until we came to the principal camp, on the east side of the river, supposed to be sixty miles above Prairie du Chien. I communicated your message to all the Indians I saw on the way, who readily promised to obey your instructions.

"At the principal camp I found Washington Decori with a considerable part of the tribe from the Wisconsin and Kickapoo rivers. I immediately informed them of your request, and desired them to get ready as soon as possible and go to the agency. They manifested entire willingness to do so, but said some of their party were out hunting, and would be in at night, for whom they wished to wait,, so that all might come together. They promised very positively, that they would start as soon as the hunters should arrive, and would certainly see you by the middle of the afternoon to-morrow. After some conversation about their starting this evening, and their still objecting to do so until the hunters came in, Lieut. Abercrombie told them that he would wait until sunset for them to get ready, and if they did not start by that time, he would take all their canoes and bring them down with the steamboat. About two hours after this they concluded to start and let the hunters come on after them; and after seeing all the canoes move off, we started on our return, and reached this place at 9 o'clock this evening. The Indians whom I saw will be here to-morrow by 12 o'clock. They had not heard of the battle on the Wisconsin, but appeared to be highly gratified and pleased at the news."

The next day, July 27th, Gen. Street ordered Mr. Burnett to "proceed with Washington Decori to LaCrosse, and such other points as you may deem important, and tell the Winnebagoes I wish to see them at the agency. I wish Winneshiek certainly to come. Much must be left to your own judgment in the case. The object is to get what information you can relative to the Sauks and Foxes, and to draw all the Winnebagoes from the Upper Mississippi, and with them the means of passing the river. If you can, extend the news to the Sioux."

The following day Mr. Burnett reported to Gen. Street: "In obedience to your order of yesterday, I went on board the steamer Enterprise last evening, and started for LaCrosse. We arrived early this morning at the entrance of the lower mouth of Black river and found the Winnebagoes encamped on the shore. I took Wekon Decori, and went on shore immediately to see the Indians. I found the one-eyed Decori and the Litte Thunder at the lodges, but found that most of the band had left the village sometime since. Winneshiek and Waumarnarsar, with about fifteen men and their families, had been gone near a month to hunt and dry meat about fifty miles up LaCrosse and Black rivers. The rest of the band were in the camp. I told them that you wished to see them immediately; that the Americans under Gen. Dodge had defeated the Sauks and Foxes on the Wisconsin, and after killing a great many, had driven them across the river; that the defeated Indians were endeavoring to make their escape to the Mississippi for the purpose of crossing it and regaining their own country; and that it was probable they would attempt to reach that point, that they might get the Winnebago canoes to cross in, and that they must get away from that place before the Sauks and Foxes arrived.

"They said they would come down immediately on the return of the absent party; that they were afraid of the Sauks, and did not wish to leave a small part of their band behind, who

were too few to resist if they would meet them. I then told them to send two of their best young men on horseback to bring in the hunting party. They very promptly complied, and in a short time the young men were mounted and on their way. I charged the express to carry to the absent Indians the message I had delivered, and to tell Winneshiek especially, that his presence was required at the agency. The chiefs present told me that they thought they would all be here certainly in six days, and probably sooner. I told them it was of great importance to them to come as soon as possible, and bring all their canoes on the river; that if the Sauks should come to that point they were not strong enough to prevent them from taking their canoes (if they did not kill them), and crossing over the river; that should they effect a passage to the west side of the river, at any point above this place, within their country, they would be suspected of assisting them, and if it should be known that they had done so, they would lose their annuities and be treated as allies of the Sauks and Foxes. They promised to start for this place on the return of the absent party and bring all their canoes with them. From their apparent anxiety, I think they will be here in three or four days at the farthest, though they said it might be six.

"The Sioux chief, L'Ark, who left this place on the evening of the 25th inst, passed Black river this morning before our arrival, and will reach his people with the news (which he received from here) to-day. Having done all we could, we left LaCrosse at 10 A. M., and reached this place at 3 P. M., making ninety miles in five hours."

It was but a few days after this, the 2d of August, 1832, that Gen. Atkinson over-hauled the broken fragments of Black Hawk's army, fatigued, hungry and dispirited, and attacked them on the bottoms of the Mississippi, a few miles below the mouth of Bad Ax river, about forty-five miles above Prairie du Chien, and totally defeated and scattered them, as related in a previous chapter. Black Hawk was soon after taken prisoner by a company of Winnebagoes.

Mr. Burnett met them soon after the capture, to whom Black Hawk gave a piece of red ribron which was tied to his hair.

AFTER THE BATTLE OF BAD AX.

(*By John A. Wakefield,* 1833.)

As soon as the battle was over all the wounded were collected to one place, and, with those of our enemy, were examined and their wounds dressed; there was no difference here between our men and our enemy. The different surgeons did their best for both. They were no longer able to do us any harm, but were in our power and begging for mercy, and we acted like a civilized people, although it was with the worst kind of enemies, and one that had done so much mischief and had taken away so many of the lives of our fellow citizens.

We had killed and wounded a great many of these wretched wanderers, that have no home in the world, but are like the wild beasts, more than man—wandering from forest to forest, and not making any improvement in the natural mind. All their study is how to proceed in the chase, or take scalps in time of war. But, although they are a miserable race of people, and live a wretched life, they are much frightened when they see death staring them in the face, which was the case at this time. When we came upon the squaws and children, they raised a scream and cry loud enough to affect the stoutest man upon earth. If they had shown themselves they would have come off much better, but fear prevented them, and in their retreat, trying to hide from us, many of them were killed, but contrary to the wish of every man, as neither officer nor private intended to have spilt the blood of those squaws and children. But such was their fate; some of them were killed, but not intentionally by any man, as all were men of too much sense of honor and feeling to have killed any but those who were able to harm us. We all well knew

the squaws and children could do us no harm and could not help what the old Black Hawk and the other chiefs did.

The prisoners we took seemed to lament their ever having raised arms against the United States, and appeared to blame the Black Hawk and the Prophet for the miserable condition that their tribe was then in, but at the same time appeared to rejoice that they were prisoners of war, which plainly showed that they had some faith in our humanity and that they would exchange the life they were then living for any other. They appeared to manifest every token of honesty in their examination. They stated that Black Hawk had stolen off up the river at the commencement of the battle, with some few of his warriors and a few squaws and children. I think the number of warriors was ten, and thirty-five women and children, or, in other words, four lodges, which is the Indian phrase, as they do not know how to count by numbers. They were examined respecting the first battle we had with them on the Wisconsin and they stated that we killed sixty-eight on the field of action, and that twenty-five had died since from their wounds, making in all ninety-three that we are certain we killed in that battle, besides a number more that there is no doubt still lingered and died with their wounds.

Putting together what were killed in the two battles, and all the little skirmishes, we must have destroyed upwards of 400 of these unhappy and miserable beings, which was occasioned, no doubt, by the superstitious ideas which were instilled into their minds by the Prophet. Although I have already stated that those unhappy wanderers make no improvement in the natural mind, they still, by instinct, believe in an overruling Providence, and are the most credulous people upon earth. They pay much attention to their dreams,and if one of their Nation dreams much,he soon takes the name of prophet, as they believe it to be a visitation of the Great Spirit. One morning I chanced to rise very early, and taking a walk through the encampment, accidentally wandered to where the Indians were encamped. It was just at the dawn of day, and they were just beginning their morning worship of the Great Spirit. I had often heard that these uninformed children of the forest believed that there was a God, and tried to worship him, which made me call a halt to see if what I had heard respecting this unhappy people was true. They commenced by three of them standing up with their faces to the east; one of them commenced a kind of talk, as though he was talking to some person at a distance, at the same time shaking a gourd, which from the rattling, I should have taken to be full of pebbles or beans. The other two stood very still, looking towards the east; the others were all sitting around in the most perfect silence, when the old prophet, priest, or whatever they called him, commenced a kind of song, which I believe is the common one sung by the Indians on all occasions. It was as near as I could make it out, in the following words: "He-aw-aw-he-aw-how-he aw-hum," with a great many elevations and falls in their tone, and beating time with the gourd of pebbles. When this song was sung, they commenced a kind of prayer, which I thought the most solemn thing I had witnessed. It was a long, monotonous note, occasionally dropping by a number of tones at once, to a low and unearthly murmur. When he had done he handed the gourd of pebbles to one of the two that stood by him, who went, as near as I could ascertain through the same ceremony, still shaking the gourd. When he had done, he handed it to the third, who went through the same motions, and making use of the same words that the first two had done, which I suppose was a supplication or prayer to the Great Spirit to give them plenty to eat, and strength to conquer their enemies. It is stated by those who are acquainted with this race of people, that they are very much afraid of offending the Great Spirit. If they have bad luck in hunting, they think it is caused by their having offended the Great Spirit,

and they make an atonement, by offering up or making sacrifice of something that they set much store by, such as burning their tobacco, or something else that they dote upon very much, but there is nothing in this world that they think more of than tobacco, as smoking they think is almost as indispensably necessary as eating.

I must now return to the battle ground with my subject. After the battle was all over, and the wounded all attended to, the prisoners and the wounded of both parties were put on board of the steamboat Warrior, and taken down to Prairie du Chien, where the wounded were taken to the hospital and the prisoners put in confinement.

The boat returned to us the next morning. We are still at the battle ground, or near it; whilst we lay there our men were still picking up scattering Indians. They brought in an old chief who was wounded. He was very poor, was between six and seven feet high, what hair was on his head was gray, but that was not much, as the most of it was shaved off, just leaving enough for hand-hold to scalp him by, as these superstitious beings think it would be a mark of cowardice to cut off this tuft of hair, which they call their scalp. These superstitious beings believe that if they are maimed or disfigured in this world they will appear in the next in the same form, which is the reason they scarcely ever bury their dead. If he should chance to lose his scalp they think that it would show in the next world that he had been conquered and scalped by an enemy which would go to show that he was not a great warrior.

Gen. Atkinson now thought that he had taken just retribution for the blood these Indians had spilt on our frontiers, and saw that it would be useless to cross the river in pursuit of those wretched beings, for they were now scattered and hid in the swamps, so that it was an impossible thing to take many of them. He finally came to the conclusion to drop down to Prairie du Chien and have a talk with the Winnebagoes, for it was now manifest that they had been allies to the Sacs and Foxes, for the prisoners that we took in this action put all doubts to rest on this score. We had a long time believed that they were acting treacherously and Gen. Atkinson now thought that it was time to bring them to an account for their conduct. He accordingly on the second day after the battle, which was the 4th of August, took up the line of march for Prairie du Chien, but before Gen. Atkinson left the battle ground he provisioned a number of Sioux and some Winnebagoes and sent them in search of Black Hawk to see if they could not capture him, and bring him in as a prisoner, which the Sioux appeared to be anxious to do as the Sacs and they had been at variance a long time and they saw that there was no chance of taking revenge for the many injuries the Sacs had done them. Gen. Atkinson and the infantry went down on the steamboat Warrior and reached Prairie De Chien the same day we started. The mounted men, baggage and all went down by land and reached Prairie du Chien the next day, which was the 5th of August. On entering the settlement of Prairie du Chien we witnessed a very novel scene. The Monomonee Indians were rejoicing at the defeat of the Sacs and Foxes, and were expressing it by music and dancing. They had obtained several scalps, amongst which were some of the squaws, which they always gave to their squaws. They had given their squaws several of them and were making music for them to dance around them. It was, as near as I could observe, in the following way: The men all stood in a row with gourds in their hands, shaking them in a very regular order, while one old fellow was beating on the head a kind of drum, which is generally a deer skin stretched over a hollow gum, sawed to the length of our drums. They never use but one stick and that very slow. The squaws were all paraded in front of the men, facing them, and the squaws, who were related to those whom the Sacs and Foxes killed in 1831, held

scalps of the Sacs and Foxes squaws, on long poles and stood in the center between the two lines, shaking them while the other squaws and the men danced around them, apparently trying to keep time with the rattling of the gourds and the sound of the drum and all at the same time singing the song usually sung by all Nations of Indians, consisting only of a few simple words that I have already repeated; but they rise and fall very singularly and always beat time to the song with their feet; when the song gets to the highest pitch they jump up very high and sometimes stamp with their feet. They generally bend forward toward each other, sometimes with their noses so close as to touch. The squaws appeared to exert all the power they were master of in shaking the scalps, and using their feet at the same time with the drummer and the gourd shaker, and from their countenances they appeared to be perfectly happy.

Gen. Atkinson, on the second day after we arrived at Prairie du Chien, had the principal chiefs of the Winnebagoes, and a few of the Menomonees, at Gen. Street's, the Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, and had a talk with them. He told them that they had given him reason to think they were not true to him, as he had caught them in many lies, which they tried to deny. He then accused Winneshiek of aiding the Sacs, and inquired of him where his two sons were. The answer of Winneshiek was, that he did not know where they were. Gen. Atkinson then asked him if they were not with Black Hawk. His answer was that one had been with him, but he did not know where he was then. Gen. Atkinson then ordered him to be put in prison until his sons could be produced. He then had a talk with the Menomonees, who had never been at war with the United States. They professed all the friendship in the world for our government; and stated that they had never done us any harm, and did not tell lies, and that if they wanted to do any harm now that they would not know how. This was a little Menomonee chief, whose name I do not recollect. Gen. Atkinson talked very friendly to him and advised him to pursue the same friendly course towards the United States, and they would be well treated. When this chief was done, he made a request of Gen. Atkinson, whom he termed father, to give each of his young men a pair of shoes, and stated that their feet were worn out with walking. He then went on to explain that when he said shoes he meant horses, and stated that his young men had been promised a horse apiece, and had not got them. Gen. Atkinson promised that they should have them, or that he would see to it, I do not recollect which. On the next day, about 11 o'clock, Winneshiek's sons were brought in, both badly wounded, which went to confirm that he and his sons were allies to the Sacs and Foxes. They had been wounded in the battle on the Mississippi. They were put in confinement August 7th.

Gen. Scott and suite arrived this morning in the steamboat Warrior, and assumed the command of the whole army, to which station he had been appointed some time previous, but was unable to come on sooner, in consequence of cholera breaking out in his army. He came past several posts and discharged the men wherever he found them.

Gen. Scott concluded to discharge the army (or the mounted volunteers) that were then in the field, and demanded Black Hawk, of Keokuk, as both men and horses were nearly worn out with fatigue. Accordingly, on the 8th day August, we left the tented fields and took up our line of March to Dixon's, on Rock river, the place appointed for us to be discharged at (or mustered out of the service of the United States). All now were eager to press forward. We had turned our faces toward our respective homes, and notwithstanding that we, as well as our horses, were nearly worn out with the fatiguing marches, through the swamps and over the mountains, yet all were cheerful, and every heart seemed to leap for joy, at the thought of

being free from the toils and hardships of a soldier, to return again to the embraces of a wife and children, or a father and mother, brothers and sisters, and to mingle, once more, in the walks and society of the fair sex, which appears to be a sovereign balm to man in all his afflictions.

On this day, just at night, we met about 300 Menomonee Indians in company of an American officer from Green Bay, coming to join in pursuit of the Sac and Fox Indians. We happened to meet them in a prairie. The officer advanced and met us, or we certainly would have fired upon them. When we came up to them they appeared almost to lament that they had not got in before we had the last battle, in order that they could have had an opportunity of assisting us in the work of death to our common enemy. For they are, as I have already stated, great enemies to the Menomonee Indians. When they left us they seemed to press forward with more vigor, as it was their object to pursue the balance of the Sacs and Foxes, who had made their escape.

On the next day we began to reach the settlements in the mining country. This was again a solemn scene. The farms had mostly been sown in grain of some kind or other. Those that were in small grain were full ripe for the sickle ; but behold ! the husbandman was not there to enjoy the benefits of his former labor by thrusting in the scythe and sickle and gathering in his grain ; which was fast going to destruction. All appeared to be solitary, and truly presented a state of mourning. But as we advanced a little further into the more thickly settled parts we would occasionally see the smoke just beginning to make its appearance from the tops of the chimneys ; as some of the inhabitants thought that it would be as well to risk dying by the tomahawk and scalping knife as to lose their grain and die by famine ; and others had received information that we had slain in battle their troublesome enemy, who had driven them from their homes and had slain many of their neighbors. Whenever we approached a house there is no telling the joy it would give to the desolate man who had lately emerged from some fort, and had left his wife and children still in it while he ventured to his home to save something for them to subsist upon.

I must confess that it filled my heart with gratitude and joy to think that I had been instrumental, with many others, in delivering my country of those merciless savages, and restoring those people again to their peaceful homes and firesides, there to enjoy in safety the sweets of a retired life ; for a fort is to a husbandman what jail is to a prisoner. The inhabitants of this district of country had been shut up in forts for the last three months, through fear of becoming a prey to Indian barbarity.

Nothing very interesting occurred on our march to Dixons. Lieut. Anderson, of the United States army, met us at this point, and by the 17th of August mustered us all out of the service of the United States. We sheathed our swords and buried our tomahawks and each man again became his own commander and shaped his own course towards his home, to enjoy the social society of his relatives and friends, in the pursuit of their different avocations in life.

CAPTURE OF BLACK HAWK AND THE PROPHET.

After the Battle of Bad Ax when Black Hawk's band was totally defeated, Brevet Brigadier-General H. Atkinson, of the United States Army, and Joseph M. Street, agent for the Winnebagoes at Prairie du Chien, told the principal chiefs of that Nation, that if they would bring in the Black Hawk and the Prophet, it would be well for them, and that the government of the United States would hold them in future as friends and treat them kindly, and that they would not, by so doing, be considered any longer the friends of the hostile Sacs and Foxes.

On this declaration, the one-eyed chief, called the Decori, and Cheater took some of their men with them and went in pursuit of these Sacs chiefs, in order, if possible, to take them prisoners and bring them and deliver them up to the Indian agent at Prairie du Chien. On the 27th of August, these two Winnebago chiefs returned, bringing with them the Black Hawk and the Prophet, the principal movers and instigators of the war. The interview with them at Prairie du Chien, I have been told, was a very interesting scene. I will give the reader the substance of their talk with Indian Agent Street and Col. Zachary Taylor, which will go to show how vigilant and with what perseverence these Winnebago chiefs acted to take these prisoners. They were upwards of twenty days gone, after they left Prairie du Chien, before they returned with them.

When they arrived, Black Hawk desired to speak to Indian Agent Street. The amount of what he said was, that he was not the originator of the war; that he was going where he would meet Keokuk, and then he would tell the truth; that he would then tell all about this war which had caused so much trouble; that there were chiefs and braves of his Nation who were the cause of the continuance of the war; that he did not want to hold any council with him; that when he got where Keokuk was he would tell the whole of the origin of the difficulties and of those who committed it; that he wanted to surrender long ago, but others refused; that he wanted to surrender to the steamboat Warrior, and tried to do so until the second fire; that he then ran and went up the river and never returned to the battle ground; that his determination then was to escape if he could; that he did not intend to surrender after that, but that when the Winnebagoes came upon him, he gave up; and that he would tell all about the disturbance when he got to Rock Island.

The one-eyed Decori and the Cheater both in like manner addressed Mr. Street, whom they term their father; which almost all the Indians do their agents. The one-eyed Decori rose first and addressed him in the following manner:

"My father, I now stand before you. When we parted I told you we would return soon; but I could not come any sooner. We had to go a great distance (to the Dale, Dells, on the Wisconsin river above the portage); you see we have done what you sent us to do. These are the two you told us to get (pointing to Black Hawk and the Prophet). We always do what you tell us to do, because we know it is for our good. My father, you told us to get these men, and it would be the cause of much good to the Winnebagoes. We have brought them, but it has been very hard for us to do it. That one—Macatamish Kakacky—was a great way off. You told us to bring them alive; we have done so. If you had told us to bring their heads alone, we would have done so; and it would have been less difficult for us to do, than what we have done. My father, we deliver these men into your hands; we would not deliver them even to our brother, the chief of the warriors, but to you, because we know you and believe you are our friend. We want you to keep them safe. If they are to be hurt, we do not wish to see it; wait until we are gone before it is done. My father, many little birds have been flying about our ears of late, and we thought they whispered to us that there was evil intended for us; but now we hope the evils birds will let our ears alone.

"My father, we know you are our friend, because you take our part; this is the reason we do what you tell us to do. My father, you say you love your red children; we think we love you as much or more than you love us. My father, we have been promised a great deal if we would take these men, that it would do much good for our people; we now hope to see what will be done for us. My father, we have come in haste, and are tired and hungry; we now put these men in your hands. We have done all you told us to do."

Mr. Street, the agent of the Winnebagoes then said :

"My children ! you have done well. I told you to bring these men to me, and you have done so. I am pleased at what you have done. It will tend to your good ; and, for this reason, I am well pleased. I assured the great chief of the warriors that, if these men were in your country, you would find them and bring them to me ; that I believed you would do what I directed you to do. Now I can say much for your good. I will go down to Rock Island with the prisoners ; and I wish you who have brought these men especially to go with me, and such other chiefs and warriors as you may select. My children ! the great chief of the warriors, when he left this place, directed me to deliver these and all other prisoners to the chief of the warriors, Col. Taylor, who is by my side.

"Some of the Winnebagoes on the south side of the Wisconsin river have befriended the Sacs, and some of the Indians of my agency have given them aid ; this was wrong and displeased the great chief of the warriors and your great father, the President, and was calculated to do much harm. My children ! your great father, the President, at Washington, has sent a great war chief from the far east—Gen. Scott—with a fresh army of soldiers, who is now at Rock Island.

"Your great father has sent him and the governor of Illinois to hold a council with the Indians at Rock Island ; he has sent a speech to you ; and he wishes the chiefs and warriors of the Winnebagoes to meet him in council on the 10th of September next. I wish you to be ready to go along with me to Rock Island.

"My children ! I am well pleased that you have taken Black Hawk and the Prophet and so many others, because it will enable me to say much for you to the great chief of the warriors and your great father, the President. I shall now deliver these two men, Black Hawk and the Prophet, to the chief of the warriors here, Col. Taylor, who will take good care of them until we start to Rock Island."

Col. Taylor then said :

"The great chief of the warriors told me to take the prisoners when you should bring them and send them to Rock Island to him. I will take them and keep them safe, but use them well, and will send them by you and Mr. Street when you go down to the council, which will be in a few days. Your friend, Mr. Street, advised you to get ready and go down soon, and so do. I tell you again, I will take the prisoners and keep them safe, but will do them no harm. I will deliver them to the great chief of the warriors, and he will do with them in such manner as he may be ordered by your great father, the President."

Cheater, a Winnebago, said to Mr. Street, the agent :

"My father ! I am young and don't know how to make speeches. This is the second time I ever spoke to you before the people. My father ! I am no chief. I am no orator, but I have been allowed to speak to you. My father! If I shall not speak as well as others, still you must listen to me.

"My father ! when you made the speech to the chiefs, Waugh-kan-decorri Carimanee, the one-eyed Decorri, and others, the other day, I was there. I heard you. I thought what you said to them you also said to me. You said if these two (pointing to Black Hawk and the Prophet) were taken by us and brought to you there would never any more a black cloud hang over your Winnebagoes. My father ! your words entered into my ears, into my brain and into my heart. I left here that very night, and you know you have not seen me since, until now. My father ! I have been a great way. I had much trouble ; but when I remembered what you said I knew you were right. This made me keep on and do what you told me. Near the dale (dells) on the Wisconsin river I took Black Hawk. No one did it but me. I say this in the ears of all

present, and they know it; and I now appeal to the Great Spirit, our Grand Mother, for the truth of what I say. My father! I am no chief, but what I have done is for the benefit of my own Nation, and, I hope, for the good that has been promised us. My father! that one, Waboki-shick, is my relation. If he is to be hurt I do not wish to see it. My father! soldiers sometimes stick the ends of their guns (bayonets) into the back of Indian prisoners when they are going about in the hands of the guard. I hope this will not be done to these men."

DEATH OF BLACK HAWK.

Black Hawk was sent as a prisoner from Prairie du Chien to Jefferson Barracks, under charge of Lieut Jefferson Davis—then in the United States army at Prairie du Chien, and thirty years later President of the Confederate States. Black Hawk was kept a close prisoner until April, 1833, when he was taken to Washington, together with some of his family and the Prophet. After an interview with President Jackson, and being emphatically told by him that the government would compel the red men to be at peace, they were sent as prisoners to Fortress Monroe, for "levying war," as Davis was, thirty-two years later, for the same offense. On June 4, 1833, by order of the President, Black Hawk and his fellow prisoners were liberated and sent home, under officers appointed to conduct them through the principal cities of the Union, in order to impress them with a proper sense of the power of the whites and of the hopelessness of any conflict on the part of the Indians with the government of the United States. Black Hawk ever after remained quiet. He died Oct. 3, 1838, and was buried on the banks of the Mississippi, in the State of Iowa, near the head of the Des Moines rapids, where the village of Montrose is located.

The Indian trade carried on for the Mississippi and Missouri and their tributaries was from Mackinaw. Until 1816 goods came mostly from Montreal in bateaux or canoes, mostly by the Mackinaw or its successor, the Southwest Company, or by some private traders. But early in 1815 Mr. Astor purchased out the interest of the Southwest Company at Mackinaw and its dependences, and in August of that year Ramsey Crooks, as already mentioned, went to Mackinaw as agent for Mr. Astor to complete the arrangements. In the spring of 1816 the goods of the American Fur Company were imported to New York, and thence by way of the lakes to Mackinaw. During that spring several Montreal traders arriving at Mackinaw with Indian goods, probably not aware of the law of Congress prohibiting British subjects from trading within the American territories, now took advantage of the order of the secretary of the treasury, and sent their goods into the Indian country, under the nominal direction of a hired American clerk, to whom the goods were invoiced and who took the license in his name, and gave proper bonds with security to the traders who owned them, who went along ostensibly as interpreters, until the boat passed all the American forts and agencies, when they assumed the ownership, and proceeded as usual in their business—these clerks' bonds were considered as a mere formality to evade the law, and were worth so much brown paper, and no more.

In the spring of 1817 the American Fur Company brought a large number of American clerks from Montreal and the United States, some of whom made good Indian traders and are yet in the country, but nearly one-half of them were found not qualified for the business, and in the following spring many of them were discharged from Mackinaw, which was then the grand depot of the Indian trade.

The American Fur Company, as had been the practice of the Mackinaw and Southwest companies, made their outfits to Lake Superior, to the Mississippi, the head of St. Peters, and the Missouri. The boats for the Mississippi and Missouri trade passed through the north end of Lake Michigan from Mackinaw, thence through Green bay to the settlement of that name

thence up the Fox river to the Little Kaukalin, where they made a portage of about three-fourths of a mile. Augustin Grignon had a trading house at this point and kept teams to transport the goods and furs, (the men taking the boats empty up or down the rapids, as the case might be, for which he charged about twenty cents per one hundred pounds. The boats then proceeded to Grand Chute, where the men made another portage of the goods or furs, and passed the boat over the Grand Chute empty. Thence they proceeded to the rapids at the lower end of Winnebago lake, where they usually made half loads over the rapids into the lake. Thence they proceeded upward to where the Fox river enters the lake, thence up Fox river through Puckawa lake, and Lac de Boeuf, or Buffalo lake, and some smaller lakes to portage of Wisconsin, where a man by the name of Roy resided, who kept teams and hauled goods, furs and boats across the Portage of one and one-fourth miles from the Fox to the Wisconsin river, for which he charged forty cents per one hundred pounds, and ten dollars for each boat.

The boats then went down the Wisconsin to its mouth, and thence up the Mississippi about three miles to Prairie du Chien; the traders of the lower Mississippi and Missouri never going down without a short stop at Prairie du Chien, where they generally spent some days in conviviality, dinners, dancing, etc. Tradition says that many years since, when there were many wintering traders in both the upper and lower Mississippi, it was the custom of every trader visiting Prairie du Chien to have in store a keg of eight or nine gallons of good wine for convivial purposes when they should again meet in the spring, on which occasions they would have great dinner parties, and, as is the English custom, drink largely. But in 1816 there were but few of the old traders remaining, and the storing of wine at Prairie du Chien had become almost obsolete, although the traders were then well supplied with wine, and that of the best kind, of which they made very free use. It was then thought that a clerk in charge of an outfit must have his keg of wine, but after the American Fur company got fairly initiated into the trade they abolished the custom of furnishing their clerks with this luxury at the expense of the outfit. As has already been said, the Indian trade of the Mississippi and Missouri and their tributaries was carried on from Mackinaw as the grand depot of the trade of the northwest.

The traders and their clerks were then the aristocracy of the country; and to a Yankee at first sight, presented a singular state of society. To see gentlemen selecting wives of the nut-brown natives, and raising children of mixed blood, the traders and clerks living in as much luxury as the resources of the country would admit, and the *engagees* or boatmen living upon soup made of hulled corn with barely tallow enough to season it, devoid of salt, unless they purchased it themselves at a high price—all this to an American was a novel mode of living, and appeared to be hard fare; but to a person acquainted with the habits of life of the Canadian peasantry, it would not look so much out of the way, as they live mostly on pea soup, seasoned with a piece of pork boiled down to grease; seldom eating pork except in the form of grease that seasons their soup. With this soup, and a piece of coarse bread, their meals were made; hence the change from pea soup to corn is not so great, or the fare much worse than that which they had been accustomed, as the corn is more substantial than peas, not being so flatulent.

These men engaged in Canada generally for five years for Mackinaw and its dependencies, transferable like cattle to any one who wanted them, at generally about 500 livres a year, or in our currency, about $83.33; furnished with a yearly equipment or outfit of two cotton shirts, one three point or triangular blanket, a portage collar and one pair of beef shoes; being obliged, in the Indian country to purchase their moccasins, tobacco, pipes and other necessaries at the price the trader saw fit to charge for them.

Generally at the end of five years these poor *voyageurs* were in debt from fifty to 150 dollars and could not leave the country until they had paid their indebtedness; and the policy of the traders was to keep as many of them in the country as they could; and to this end they allowed and encouraged their *engagees* to get in debt during the five years, which of necessity required them to remain.

These new hands were by the old *voyageurs* called in derision, *mangeurs de lard—pork-eaters* as on leaving Montreal, and on the route to Mackinaw, they were fed on pork, hard bread, and pea-soup, while the old *voyageurs* in the Indian country ate corn soup, and such other food as could conveniety be procured. These *mangeurs de lard* were brought at considerable expense and trouble from Montreal and other parts of Canada, frequently, deserting after they had received some advance in money and their equipment. Hence it was the object of the traders to keep as many of the old *voyageurs* in the country as they could, and they generally permitted the *mangeurs de lard* to get largely in debt, as they could not leave the country and get back into Canada, except by the return boats or canoes which brought the goods, and they would not take t' em back if they were in debt anywhere in the country, which could be easily ascertained from the traders at Mackinaw. But if a man was prudent enough to save his wages, he could obtain passage, as he was no longer wanted in the country.

WESTERN WISCONSIN IN 1836.

(By S. M. Palmer.)

Desirous of visiting Cassville, Prairie du Chien and that part of the territory bordering on the Mississippi, I accepted a cordial invitation from Col. Daniels, of Cassville, to take a seat in his carriage for that place. It was a delightful morning in September, when, with an agreeable party, consisting of the colonel, Mr. Latham, of Mineral Point, and a Mr. Payne, of Boston, we bade adieu to the noble, generous people of Mineral Point, and proceeded over a rough, uncultivated, hilly, and tolerably well timbered country, some six or ten miles to a pretty spot called Diamond Grove, near which was the residence of Col. John B. Terry. Here it was proposed to stop, but on approaching the house, it was evident that the family were not at home, and I proposed to pass on, but was overruled by Col. Daniels, who insisted that it was the seat of genuine hospitality, where the latch string was never drawn in —which proved to be the case on that occasion, at least, and the whole party entered the house. And although no member of the family was at home, Col. Daniels, presuming upon his friendship with the proprietor, opened the cupboard, and set out an excellent cold collation, to which was added a bottle of something stronger than milk, on which the party regaled themselves most satisfactorily.

Proceeding across a fine rolling prairie, beautiful as a garden, though almost in a state of nature, with at rare intervals a small agricultural improvement, or a hamlet of miners' huts, we struck the military road, which traverses the dividing ridge extending across the territory, the western terminus being at Prairie du Chien, along which we continued through a succession of natural landscapes, the most rich and gorgeous that can be imagined, until we reached the intersection of the Cassville road; near which, but a short distance along the last named road, we stopped for the night, at a small log hut, the only building of any description in the vicinity, excepting a small one on a recent improvement, said to have been commenced by Hon. Thomas P. Burnett, near where we diverged from the military road.

We were generously welcomed, and as comfortably entertained as the limited means of our kind host and hostess would admit. The ride from this point to Cassville was through a country of extraordinary beauty, with a soil of unrivaled richness and fertility, though with the exception of a very few small buildings and improvements, untouched by the hand of man.

The people of Cassville, proverbially intelligent, accomplished and enterprising—proud of what they considered the great beauty and immense natural advantages of the location of their town—were all bustle and excitement in view of many grand and important improvements already projected or in progress; first among which was a magnificent hotel, the foundation for which was already being laid. All classes appeared prosperous, happy and contented, looking forward with confidence to a brilliant future for themselves and their favorite town.

After remaining a short time here, I took passage (kindly accompanied by Capt. Estin, and Mr. Latham) on board the steamboat Adventurer,a very small dilapidated and filthy boat, (for at that time there were comparatively few steamers of any description plying on the Mississippi, above Dubuque), for Prairie du Chien. This town, located on a beautiful prairie, some four miles above the mouth of the Wisconsin river, would have been fully equal in appearance to any other site on the Mississippi, but for a slough or bayou which ran through it nearly parallel with the river, thus dividing the town, and giving to that portion next to the river, or Old Town, as it was called, the appearance of an island, which was exclusively occupied by the store and warehouse, a large and elegant stone structure, and other buildings of the North American Fur Company, with a few mean huts tenanted by a miserable set of French and Indians. It was here that John Jacob Astor, the New York millionaire, as a member or chief of that mammoth fur company, made, it has been said, a considerable portion of his immense wealth.

On the opposite side of the bayou, or New Town, was Fort Crawford, in which were about 300 United States troops. It occupied a high, airy and commanding position on the prairie, and comprised four substantial stone buildings, each some 200 feet long, forming a hollow square, in the center of which was a spacious parade ground. The officers and ladies of the garrison were exceedingly courteous and agreeable, exerting themselves to render our visit in every respect pleasant and satisfactory. The New Town contained but few dwelling houses, and those of a very ordinary character, the only one of any pretensions, which I recollect, being that occupied by Judge Lockwood.

Returning to Cassville I took passage on board the steamer, Missouri Fulton, and bidding adieu to that delightful territory, in the fond hope of being permitted to visit it again in after years, set out cheerily for my eastern home, at Rock Island, in which stood Fort Armstrong, a handsome and truly formidable fortress. The captain kindly landed to afford the passengers an opportunity of witnessing the formalities of concluding a treaty which was being held between Gov. Dodge, acting for the United States, and the chiefs of the Sauk and Fox Indians, during which the latter ceded to the government their immensely valuable reservation situated on the Iowa river, west of the Mississippi, and nearly opposite to Rock Island, the sum stipulated for the purchase being, as it was then understood, seventy-five cents per acre.*

The acquisition of this domain was considered of great importance to the country; not so much on account of its intrinsic value, as to get rid of those mischievous tribes of Indians, who up to a period very recent, had kept up a continual warfare with their white neighbors, at the instigation of Black Hawk, who strenuously maintained to the last, that they had been

*This is substantially correct. The Sauks and Foxes ceded at this treaty, 400 sections, or 256,000 acres, in consideration of which the sum of $30,000 was to be paid them the following year, and $10,000 a year for ten years thereafter, making altogether $130,000. In addition, the government agreed to pay certain debts due to traders, and other claims, amounting in the aggregate to $56,294.67; and still farther provided to pay certain annuities for several half-breed children for their education, etc., the total amount of which cannot be well estimated. This would show the cost of the ceded lands at between seventy and seventy-five cents per acre. It is interesting to notice that Black Hawk, who was present at the treaty, had no official connection with it, having been practically deposed by our government at the close of the Black Hawk War, by the recognition of Keokuk, as head chief. L. C. D.

unjustly deprived of the lands and homes inherited from their fathers, and which ended only with the capture of that brave old chief, and the consequent termination of war in August, 1832.

Pending the treaty, some 400 of the Sauk and Fox tribes, old and young, male and female, were encamped on the western bank of the river, opposite the island, who, contrary to the supposed proverbial taciturn and stoical disposition of that people, were engaged in all manner of sports, including horse racing and gambling of every description. The men, many of them, were painted after a variety of grotesque fashions, their heads ornamented and decked out in scarlet cloth or flannel, with a profusion of feathers, beads and other finery. They appeared decidedly happy, and at times were boisterous in their mirth. After the passengers returned to the boat, they were visited, among others, by the co-chiefs, Black Hawk and Keokuk, who exhibited evident signs of pleasure and gratification at being introduced to them, particularly the ladies, toward whom they were decidedly gallant. This treaty was considered, and justly too, a highly important one, settling, as it did, forever, the difficulties and misunderstandings which had so long subsisted with those Indians, who were the original owners and occupiers of all that beautiful country on both sides of the river, for a considerable distance above and below Rock Island, and Gov. Dodge was highly complimented for the skillful and successful manner in which he conducted the negotiations for the final result.

Thus have I hastily and imperfectly jotted down the reminiscences of a brief residence in the territory, nearly a quarter of a century ago; and if, among them all, there shall be found a single fact worthy of preservation as connected with its early history, I shall feel amply recompensed for the little time and labor it has cost me in its preparation.

Pottsville, Pa., November, 1858.

CHAPTER XXVII.

POETS AND POETRY.

In the domain of literature, there are not, nor have there been, any citizens of Vernon county who have been rewarded with a world-wide reputation; nevertheless, the efforts of not a few have been creditable, and some have achieved a success that has attracted attention both at home and abroad. But this success has been, in a marked degree, confined to versification. No prose work has ever been printed in Vernon county. Efforts in that line have been confined to now and then an article published in some one of the county papers. Not so, however, in poetry. Ever since newspapers have been printed in the county there have been frequent poetical contributions to them;—and an unusual number of these have been of a high order of merit. These effusions have, by no means, been confined to school girls and love-sick swains; but many of the older and most substantial citizens of the county have thought it not beneath them to court the muses; and they have done this sometimes over a *nom de plume*, but more frequently with their own signatures attached. Occasionally an anonymous piece of poetry has been given to the public, through the medium just mentioned, deserving of particular notice; but these are few.

A correspondent of the *Northwestern Times* contributed under the *nom de plume* of "Esmarelda," more than a score of years ago, some fugitive poems that were meritorious. We copy one, entitled

THE INDIAN.

Oh! lone Winnebago,
How sadly you weep
O'er the bones of thy loved ones
In their desolate sleep;
The white man hath robbed thee
Of thine own native soil,
And the graves of thy fathers
Are sunk neath their toil.

How sad is thy journey,
As thou goest alone
Through these wide rolling prairies,
That were once all thine own,
'Mid the homes of the white man
No more thou art free;
Scarce a grave for thy dead
Will they grant unto thee.

No more o'er these bluffs
Shall thou roam with delight,
Nor chase the wild deer
With fleet step and light,
Nor 'round the great council fire
Recline at thine ease,
Nor smoke with thy kindred
The calumet of peace.

No more shall thou fish
In this bright, silver stream,
No more shall the blade
Of the tomahawk gleam;
No more shall thine arrow
The water-fowl cleave;
At the bidding of white men.
All these thou must leave.

Oh! sad Winnebago,
We grieve for thy fate,
Thy wrongs by the white man
Hath earned them thy hate.
May the spirit thou worship
Yet grant unto thee
A portion with braves
And home with the free.

In the following poetical contribution to the *Censor* of Dec. 20, 1865, the cumulative measures are striking,and the poetic images decidedly above mediocrity. It is anonymous and is entitled

SUNSHINE IN WINTER.

Sweet is the sunshine,
The golden sunshine,
When in the winter time,
The cold winter time,
Through long dreary days,
Earth's dreary days,
Storm clouds on storm clouds—
Such dark storm clouds—
Have thickly veiled the sky,
Veiled the whole sky.

Oh! it bursts gloriously,
Most gloriously,
On our glad vision,
Ravish'd vision,
Like a pure angel,
A wing'd angel.
From Heaven's clear blue
The sapphire blue,
The deep, deep blue above,
Arched blue above!

It strikes on our heart-strings,
Our chil'd heart-string,
As the last zephyr,
Eve's last zephyr.
Smites the silk cord,
The silken cord,
Of a lone, lone harp.
A lost, lost harp,
Found among the flowers,
Earth's sweet flowers.

And oh, the charming music,
The soul's own music,
That laughs upon the air,
The wintry air,
When the sweet sunshine,
The charming sunshine,
Breaks from the storm clouds,
Wrathful storm clouds,
And floods the whole world,
The whole, whole world!

Who in Vernon county does not know Wm. F. Terhune, one of the oldest of its lawyer and citizens? Few would suspect from his matter-of-fact way of talking that his thoughts ever ran in a poetic groove; yet, he has published a number of fugitive pieces, of which he may well be proud. We select from the Vernon county *Censor* of April 21, 1874,

A WISH.

When summer's sun pours down its ardent rays,
And nature withers 'neath their scorching blaze,—
See, 'mid the landscape, yonder crystal stream
Glide on its way toward the deep ravine,
Calm o'er their pebbled bed the waters go,
No eddying ripples agitate their flow;
While peaceful murmuring as they glide along,
They blend with birds in sweet harmonious song;
On each fair bank a fresher verdure blooms.
There, sweetest flowers breathe their rich perfumes,
Sunbeams, reflected from the surface gleam,
And shimmering dance in gladness o'er the stream.
Trace its bright course along the meadow's side,
And breathe delicious coolness from its tide;
Mark how the herds the crystal liquid lave,
While verdure springs luxuriant near the wave;
Gentle and calm, its life-diffusing flow
Spreads soft enchantment through the vale below.
So, do I wish with me would ever glide,
'Mid haunts of peace, life' fast descending tide,
So, might it move in an unruffled stream,
Where blessings linger and enchantments gleam;
So, might its waves, with lustred virtues shine,
Reflecting brightness from their source divine;
So, on its banks perennial flowers fair,
Of worth and goodness bloom forever there;
So, might it flow, my fellow men to bless
With light and joy and increased happiness.

By far the most prolific of Vernon county poets is the Rev. William Haughton. His contributions, at home and abroad, to various papers, have been numerous. He is, indeed, a true poet. He has an exhuberance of fancy, and his style is picturesque and attractive. He paints a pen-picture with a masterly hand. He has published a collection of his poems, entitled, "Sylvicola, or, Songs from the Backwoods." The book is a beautiful specimen of the printer's art. It was published in 1878 at Viroqua, by Henry Casson, Jr.

The author's preface is brief and we give it entire:

PREFACE.

"I know not what may be the fate of this little book. I make no appeal to the hearts or

sympathies of a kind public, well knowing that it must stand or fall on its own merits or demerits alone.

"I have been solicited to collect in book form the fugitive pieces already published in the local papers, and I have done so without taking time to correct faults. Many of these pieces were written in early boyhood and published in the Canadian papers under the *nom de plume* 'Sylvicola.' So sweet is the impression left on my heart of their reception, that I have given as the title of my little book a name still dear to me. May these songs—faulty as they are—bring to your heart a tithe of the joy they have given mine.

WILLIAM HAUGHTON.

Viroqua, Wis., 1878."

From "Sylvicola," we select the following as a fair average of the whole:

'TWAS ONLY A SHELL.

'Twas only a shell by the river-side—
A tiny and delicate shell;
But 'twas kissed by the lips of the tinted tide,
As it slept where the pearly waters hide,
And the sunbeam loved it well.

But alas for the gem with the delicate dye,
'Twas crushed by the foot of a passer-by;
No more will it blush to the tinted wave
In its sanded bed by the whispering cave.

'Twas only a flower by the streamlet's brim,
And it grew in the valley deep;
But 'twas kissed by the dews when the day grew dim
In the melting fall of the robin's hymn,
And the night wind sang it to sleep.
But alas for the gem with its violet dye!
'Twas plucked by the hand of a passer by;
No more will it blush to the tinted tide
In its grassy bed by the streamlet's side.

'Twas only the heart of a lowly one--
A heart that was tender and true,
So little were left when its trust was gone,
Yet sweet was the hope that it leaned upon,
And strong was the love that it knew.
But alas for its life! On a cruel day
A shadow fell and it withered away:
'Twas a faithless love—'twas a trust betrayed,
And the broken heart of a lowly maid.

O red-lipped shell by the sanded cave!
O violet gem by the tinted wave!
O trusting heart of a lowly one!
Away and away from my dreams you've gone.
Sad types, when the spoiler's hand is nigh,
Or the careless foot of a passer by.

JOHN BROWN.

[WRITTEN IN 1860.]

Wail for the hero gone,
O slave!
Wail for the hero gone!
Like a rock which the tempest breaks upon
He stood, while the might of his heart alone
Beat back the giant wave.

Weep for the hero dead,
O slave!
Weep for the hero dead!
Sublime was the dream for which he bled.
Be a martyr's crown on the hoary head
Asleep in a felon's grave.

Mourn for the hero lost,
O slave!
Mourn for the hero lost!
By that awful line in the landmark crossed
Will freedom rise where the gage is tossed
To burst thy bonds and save!

Wake for the bold heart hushed,
O song!
Wake for the bold heart hushed,
For the victim's blood that nobly gushed,
For the captive wounded, chained and crushed,
For a people's shame and wrong!

SUMMER SONG.

The breathing balm, the soft perfume
Of beauty bursting into bloom;
The dewy morn, the starry night,
The blending waves of shadowy light;
The cloud of everchanging hue,
The tranquil heavens so deeply blue,
The blushing buds upon the spray—
These are thy gifts, O, Summer day!

Sweet Spring, in all her glory dressed—
Young Summer leaning on her breast,
Crowned with a wreath of opening flowers,
Fanned by the breath of southern bowers;
The birds' wild carol from the bough,
The haze upon the mountain's brow,
The peace, the joy, the flooding light
Thrill the rapt heart and charm the sight.

What hand but thine, O, thou Supreme !
Could paint the sunbeam on that stream ?
Could give the pearly dew its light,
Or flood with gems the starry night ?
Could wake the myriad joys that throng
In breeze or bower, or wild bird's song,
More rapturous than a seraph's dream ?
What hand but thine, O thou Supreme ?

Thou comest in the rushing storm,
When terrors robe thine awful form ;
When quivering lightnings round thee meet
And thunder crouches at thy feet ;
When at thy beck wild tempests sweep
And shriek along the howling deep,
And the mad waves in terror rise,
Their white lips pleading with the skies.

Less glorious, but how fair, art thou,
When robed and crowned as thou art now;
Not the wild anthem of the storm,
Nor pitchy darkness round thy form,
But light and joy and peace serene, —
The heavens so blue, the earth so green.
What hand but thine, O thou Supreme !
Could paint that flower or gild that stream !

He loves not heaven who loves not thee,
O wealth of Summer scenery !
From whose cold breast no echoes start
Responsive to thine own full heart.
To me, that land where angels throng
Is rich with verdure and with song,
And every dream of heaven is bright
With earth's dear love, its life and light.

William Clawater, of the town of Franklin, a member of the 6th Wisconsin in the Iron Brigade of the late war, has written (and is still writing,) some creditable poetry. The following is especially to be commended :

MOUNT RENO.

'Tis morn, the night wind seems whispering rest,
Hills dotting the valley with borders of green.
Huge frowning cliffs guard the gates to the west,
Dark shadows o'erlapping the valleys between.

Bright rose the sun on that calm Sabbath morn,
On South Mountain's top shimmering light,
By the farm-house and cottage green waved the corn,
Where Hooker was resting the right.

On the left stood a gray, hoary giant,
Battle-scarred by the storms and by time ;
Beneath its dark shade, rock-girt and defiant,
Lay a path where the bravest might climb.

At its base lies a cordon that's deep,
Rent banners inscribed "Gaines' Mill ;"
No braver men, living or asleep,
Than bore them at Malvern Hill.

Up from each flank moved the line,
Their arms at a right shoulder shift,
The center stands still as the pine,
That covered the mountain and rift.

In the center's a deep yawning grave,
Where Nature seems holding her breath,
Palor whitens the cheek of the brave,
As the eye scans this valley of death.

There's a deep wave of blood on the heart ;
Describe it ?—it cannot be told ;
Slow, aye, and worthless the pencil of art,
Were it lightning and letters of gold !

Now this death-chilling silence is o'er,
Dark the cloud that foreshadows the hail,
The fierce storm that bursts with a roar,
The rocks echo back on the gale.

The iron line rush to the charge,
Bragg, Fairchild, and Gibbon are breasting the shell,
No braver line trusting in steel,
Than surged up that valley of hell.

Now, high above the roar of the guns,
Piercing wave, 'tis the Southerners' yell
Falling chill on the hearts of our sons,
For it tells when the brave Reno fell.

The dark, gray rocks are now crimsoned with blood,
Locked banners trail their folds o'er the dead ;
Ebbing tides of the heart swell the flood,
And each throb dye's the green heather red.

Darkens the mountain with Northern blue,
Roll the Rebel gray like a fast-ebbing tide,
Their darkened crime and their falser dream,
Mingle earth and blood on the mountain's side.

With the dark blue lines came the flashing steel,
Planting stars and stripes on the crown,
And the haughty chivalry backward reel,
The stars and bars with the sun go down.

Setting sun, 'twas thy last fading ray,
That painted death's shade at the sever ;
Round its brow twines the laurel and bay,
And Mount Reno is famous forever !

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE SCHOOLS OF VERNON COUNTY.

From the time of the earliest advent of the families of French traders into the region now known as Wisconsin, to the year 1818, when that region became part of Michigan territory, education was mostly confined to private instruction, or was sought by the children of the wealthier in the distant cities of Quebec, Montreal and Detroit. The early Jesuit missionaries, and—subsequently to 1816, when it came under the military control of the United States—representatives of various other religious denominations sought to teach the Indian tribes of this section. In 1823 Rev. Eleazar Williams, well known for his subsequent claim to be the Dauphin of France, and who was in the employ of the Episcopal Missionary Society, started a school of white and half-breed children on the west side of Fox river, opposite "Shanty-Town." A Catholic mission school for Indians was organized by an Italian priest near Green Bay, in 1830. A clause of the treaty with the Winnebago Indians, in 1832, bound the United States to maintain a school for their children near Prairie du Chien for a period of twenty-seven years.

THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL CODE.

From 1818 to 1836, Wisconsin formed a part of Michigan territory. In the year 1837 Michigan was admitted into the Union as a State, and Wisconsin, embracing what is now Minnesota, Iowa, and a considerable region still further westward, was, by act of Congress approved April 20th of the year previous, established as a separate territory. The act provided that the existing laws of the territory of Michigan should be extended over the new territory so far as compatible with the provisions of the act, subject to alteration or repeal by the new government created. Thus with the other statutes, the school code of Michigan became the original code of Wisconsin, and it was soon formally adopted, with almost no change, by the first territorial Legislature, which met at Belmont. Although modified in some of its provisions almost every year, this imperfect code continued in force until the adoption of the State constitution in 1848. The first material changes in the code were made by the territorial Legislature at its second session, in 1837, by the passage of a bill "to regulate the sale of school lands, and to provide for organizing, regulating and perfecting common schools."

It was provided in this act that as soon as twenty electors should reside in a surveyed township, they should elect a board of three commissioners, holding office three years, to lay off districts, to apply the proceeds of the leases of school lands to the payment of teachers' wages, and to call school meetings. It was also provided that each district should elect a board of three directors, holding office one year, to locate school houses, hire teachers for at least three months in the year, and levy taxes for the support of schools. It was further provided that a third board of five inspectors should be elected annually in each town to examine and license teachers and inspect the schools. Two years subsequently (1839) the law was revised and the family, instead of the electors, was made the basis of the town organization. Every

town with not less than ten families, was made a school district and required to provide a competent teacher. More populous towns were divided into two or more districts. The office of town commissioner was abolished, its duties with certain others, being transferred to the inspectors. The rate-bill system of taxation, previously in existence, was repealed, and a tax on the whole county for building school houses and supporting schools, was provided for. One or two years later the office of town commissioners was restored, and the duties of the inspectors were assigned to the same. Other somewhat important amendments were made at the same time.

In 1840, a memorial to Congress from the Legislature, represented that the people were anxious to establish a common school system, with suitable resources for its support. From lack of sufficient funds many of the schools were poorly organized. The rate-bill tax or private subscription was often necessary to suppliment the scanty results of county taxation. Until a State government should be organized, the fund accruing from the sale of school lands could not be available. Congress had made to Wisconsin, as to other new States, for educational purposes, a donation of lands. These lands embraced the sixteenth section in every township in the State, the 500,000 acres to which the State was entitled by the provisions of an act of Congress passed in 1841, and any grant of lands from the United States, the purposes of which were not specified. To obtain the benefits of this large fund was a leading object in forming the State constitution.

AGITATION FOR FREE SCHOOLS.

Shortly before the admission of the State the subject of free schools began to be quite widely discussed. In February, 1845, Col. M. Frank, of Kenosha, a member of the territorial Legislature, introduced a bill, which became a law, authorizing the legal voters of his own town to vote taxes on all the assessed property for the full support of its schools. A provision of the act required its submission to the people of the town before it could take effect. It met with strenuous opposition, but after many public meetings and lectures held in the interests of public enlightenment, the act was ratified by a small majority in the fall of 1845, and thus the first free school in the State was legally organized. Subsequently, in the Legislature, in the two constitutional conventions, and in educational assemblies, the question of a free school system for the new State soon to be organized provoked much interest and discussion. In the constitution framed by the convention of 1846, was provided the basis of a free school system similar to that in our present constitution.

The question of establishing the office of State superintendent, more than any other feature of the proposed school system, elicited discussion in that body. The necessity of this office, and the advantages of free schools supported by taxation, were ably presented to the convention by Hon. Henry Barnard, of Connecticut, in an evening address. He afterward prepared, by request, a draft of a free school system, with a State superintendent at its head, which was accepted and subsequently embodied in the constitution and the school law. In the second constitutional convention, in 1848, the same questions again received careful attention, and the article on education previously prepared, was, after a few changes, brought into the shape in which we now find it. Immediately after the ratification by the people, of the constitution prepared by the second convention, three commissioners were appointed to revise the statutes. To one of these, Col. Frank, the needed revision of the school laws was assigned. The work was acceptably performed, and the new school code of 1849, largely the same as the present one, went into operation May 1st, of that year.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM UNDER THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

In the State constitution was laid the broad foundation of our present school system. The

four corner stones were: (1) The guaranteed freedom of the schools; (2) the school fund created; (3) the system of supervision; (4) a State University for higher instruction. The school fund has five distinct sources for its creation indicated in the constitution: (1) Proceeds from the sale of lands granted to the State by the United States for educational purposes; (2) all moneys accruing from forfeiture or escheat; (3) all fines collected in the several counties for breach of the penal laws; (4) all moneys paid for exemption from military duty; (5) five per cent. of the sale of government lands within the State. In addition to these constitutional sources of the school fund, another and sixth source was open from 1856 to 1870.

By an act of the State Legislature in the former year, three-fourths of the net proceeds of the sales of the swamp and overflowed lands, granted to the State by Congress, Sept. 28, 1850, were added to the common school fund, the other fourth going into a fund for drainage, under certain circumstances; but if not paid over to any town for that purpose within two years, to become a part of the school fund. The following year one of these fourths was converted into the normal school fund, leaving one-half for the common school fund. In 1858 another fourth was given to the drainage fund, thus providing for the latter one half the income from the sales, and leaving for the school fund, until the year 1865, only the remaining one fourth. In the latter year this was transferred to the normal school fund, with the provision, however, that one-fourth of the income of this fund should be transferred to the common school fund until the annual income of the latter fund should reach $200,000. In 1870 this provision was repealed, and the whole income of the normal fund left applicable to the support of normal schools and teachers' institutes.

At the first session of the State Legislature in 1848, several acts were passed which carried out in some degree the educational provisions of the constitution. A law was enacted to provide for the election, and to define the duties of a State superintendent of public instruction. A district board was created, consisting of a moderator, director and treasurer; the office of town superintendent was established, and provision was made for the creation of town libraries, and for the distribution of the school fund. The present school code of Wisconsin is substantially that passed by the Legislature of 1848, and which went into operation May 1, 1849. The most important change since made was the abolition of the office of town superintendent, and the substitution therefor of the county superintendency. This change took effect Jan. 1, 1862. *

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS IN VERNON COUNTY.

From small beginnings indeed, education has developed in Vernon as in other counties, step by step, growth upon growth, ever widening and deepening to meet the wants of an increasing population, until to-day our schools stand abreast with the times, and are not far behind the foremost in Wisconsin.

Here and there some fifteen to twenty years ago the traveler might meet on some cross road or deep in the head of some cooley, the old-time log cabin, poorly lighted, largely ventilated, wretchedly constructed and furnished, where grown boys and girls with little children were taught from old fashioned and various text books, and often indeed, without even these poor aids. Educated and trained teachers were hard to obtain. There was little attempt at classification or any uniformity of method. One teacher spent part of his term in pulling down the work which the former teacher had built up, or in carrying the pupil over the same ground traveled by his predecessor, leaving the boy or girl at compound numbers or at fractions, to begin again the same process on the re-opening of the school and arrival of the next teacher.

*"Educational History," by Prof. Edward Searing, in the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Wisconsin.

The programme and curriculum of these palmy days were the time worn reading and arithmetic in the forenoon; geography, reading and spelling in the afternoon. Language lessons or grammar were seldom or never taught. Penmanship was a scarcity. The benches and desks were rude; the ceiling low; the floor rough and rickety. No outbuildings were visible and on the whole the aspect looked uninviting. Yet here and there some good, solid work was accomplished, owing, perhaps, rather to the determination and patience of the pupil than to the ability of the teacher and the aid of books, and out from even these poor schools have gone earnest hearted youths and maidens equipped and harnessed fairly for the struggle of life. So true is it that talent will finally manifest itself in spite of lack of aid from extensive sources.

Vernon county had several superintendents of schools in these days known as township superintendents.

By and by instead of the log cabin might be seen, along the public roads, here and there, the neat frame building; sometimes roomy and well lighted, with seats and desks in keeping, and occasionally a good blackboard and a map or two on the walls. Some system, too, was attempted in the examination of teachers, and also in the discipline of the school room. Scholarship became a necessary factor in the teacher's fitness. The schools were more frequently visited; better order prevailed; the tests of successful work sought out both by superintendents and district boards, and the attention of the public now closely turned to the conditions of the schools.

The township system of superintendents closed and that of county supervisors begun.

One of the first, if not the first county superintendent was Mr. Hartwell Allen, who held the office for some years. Mr. N. Wright, of Bloomingdale, carried on the work for two years, and Mr. O. B. Wyman, then of Hillsborough, continued it for six years longer. These gentlemen did earnest and successful work and helped to bring up the character of Vernon county schools to their present condition. At the close of Mr. Wyman's term of office Mr. William Haughton, a former principal of Viroqua High School and pastor of the Congregational Church at same place, was elected and again elected to the office in the last county election.

From a small beginning the schools now number 160. Many of the buildings are commodious and comfortable, respectably furnished and well ventilated. Quite a number are very pleasantly located, and some of the towns have entered so heartily into educational matters that they have spared no cost and no pains in buildings and surroundings.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.

Bergen	number	7	In good condition		5
Christiana	"	6	"	"	3
Clinton	"	7	"	"	3
Coon	"	6	"	"	5
Forest	"	10	"	"	9
Franklin	"	10	"	"	8
Genoa	"	6	"	"	4
Greenwood	"	7	"	"	6
Hamburg	"	7	"	"	6
Harmony	"	6	"	"	5
Hillsborough	"	9	"	"	5
Jefferson	"	10	"	"	7
Kickapoo	"	7	"	"	3
Liberty	"	4	"	"	1
Stark	"	7	"	"	5
Sterling	"	10	"	"	8
Union	"	6	"	"	6
Viroqua	"	14	"	"	5
Webster	"	7	"	"	3
Wheatland	"	6	"	"	5
Whitestown	"	8	"	"	5
Total 21 towns,		160	In good condition,		107

SCHOOL HOUSES.

A few of these buildings are of brick and stone. The balance of those in good condition, quite a credit to the county.

Thirteen new school houses were built during the year. One in Christiana, costing $745 in the pleasant and thriving village of Westby,

on the Viroqua & Sparta Railroad. The ladies of this village deserve much credit for the active part they took in helping forward this building, having gotten up entertainments to help therein. The building is neat and roomy and contains two departments, one in each story.

Coon has a very neat brick building in the striving village of Coon valley, standing near the beautiful brick church edifice of the Lutheran faith. Our Norwegian friends show great zeal in the cause of education. All these public school buildings are a credit to them. Of the six school houses in this town, every one is neat and well kept. The same can be said of Christiana.

Forest put up a building costing $600. One cannot but be pleased with the character and condition of the school houses in this town, trim, neat, presenting an exterior that merits praise and an interior helpful to both teacher and student. The same may be said of other towns, but when we consider the rough nature of many parts of Forest and lack of wealth amongst its people, one is compelled to give large credit to its education loving residents which are chiefly American.

Ontario, a very beautiful village in Whitestown, on the waters of the Kickapoo; if not the city of palms, is at least of evergreens, orderly, quiet and serene; has a graded school of two departments, over which Prof. D. O. Mahoney has reigned for some years, doing good work. The people feel the need of a new building and a High School. We trust to see one there ere long.

Newton, in the town of Harmony, owns a large two story building, a credit to its people, especially to Mr. Hartwell Allen, an ex-superintendent of Vernon county, whose zeal and spirit helped on the good work.

Newton has been noted for its special and select schools conducted by Mr. Allen, Mr. Haughton and one or two others. The former, especially, has done good work here, so good that his influence has been felt to this day among teachers and pupils.

Readstown school, in Kickapoo, has a respectable history. Able teachers have left their marks there.

De Soto, in town of Wheatland, owns a building which is a credit to the place. It was erected by I. W. Blake, of Viroqua. It is two story, commodious, airy, neat and well furnished. It is appraised at upwards of $3,000, but who can estimate the value of its work or rather the work done therein to the community. Formerly they ran three departments, at present owing to the exit of people to the far west, only two departments are open.

Victory, on the banks of the Mississippi, owns a good and commodious building. So of other places along or near the same shore between De Soto and the northwestern boundary of Vernon. Time we trust is near when this shore will be alive with activity and business enterprise and crowds of children shall seek the school house. In the common course of things and the nature of events that day is not far distant. Hillsborough, in the eastern part of the county has a beautiful building. In fact two buildings very nearly side by side. Three departments are kept open the greater part of the year, one of them a High School. The buildings are pleasantly located, apart from the village, yet commanding a view of it. There are here excellent and numerous accommodations, good airy rooms, and the general aspect of the place is delightful. The good citizens, many of whom are Germans, spare no cost in and for the well-being of their schools.

Rockton school has also a good history. The people have lately put the building under repairs and have neatly and commodiously furnished and seated it. To the Hon. Samuel S. Bennett much credit is due. His helpful hand and large influence have done much for education, as well as for other good things in this place and amongst this community.

Chaseburg, on the Coon river, owns a pretty school building. We are tempted again into calling attention to a name interwoven with the history of this place. The Hon. Mr. Swain, a true friend to every good work. His influence has been very helpful to education in this place.

Viroqua schools have prospered in the past few years, especially those in the village. A large stone building of four departments, costing some $14,000, was erected some years ago, but was found not ample enough for the rapidly increasing school population. Last year a very elegant and commodious brick building was erected. And yet they come. Before long another wing will have to be added to this edifice. The schools both high and graded have, for two years past been under the charge of Prof. I. C. Smith, a very able and zealous teacher, and a graduate of Platesville Normal School. Mr. Smith is doing good work, as are also his staff of teachers. Emma Howett, Lena Washburn, Hattie Ferrett, Eliza Haughton, Ida Coe and Hattie McKie. The attendance is large. The curriculum very respectable and the work done is really valuable. The schools have won the confidence of the general public, so much so that now resident pupils are seeking to avail themselves of its benefits in large numbers.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

Two semi-annual public examinations for teachers are held, one in March and one in September of each year, at eight different points in the county, most available to teachers. About 250 to 300 applicants attend these examinations, some write only for their grading, others for certificates, 180 to 200 of which have been annually granted, chiefly of the third class grade. We have been gradually reducing the corps of teachers and raising the standard of qualification. During the past year fewer certificates have been granted than ever before, and the result is, naturally higher salaries and a better class of instructors. We seek everywhere and on all occasions to give encouragement and promise to do faithful and efficient work. Teachers are requested to give reports to county superintendent as to their location and work, name of school board, order of exercises, progress and punctuality of pupils, average attendance at school, methods of instruction, visitations at homes of pupils and preparations for school room work after school hours.

COUNTY SUPERVISION.

The effect of this supervision and discipline is manifest in the better order of the schools and the progress of the pupils. Not only is it sought to have the intellect developed, but likewise the heart of kindness and courtesy, in the school room and on the play grounds. A constant visitation, when not engaged in office work, is kept up by the superintendent, when methods of instruction are examined, suggested or recommended, and faithful work encouraged.

Public lectures are frequently given; talks to the children, also, on the beauty and nobility of education, self government and a pure life, self-giving and unselfish like the Great Master—for we all know that mere intellectual power without moral guidance and strength is a failure for this life and for the next. Teachers and pupils everywhere welcome the superintendent, and he has always a place in the hearts and homes of our generous people.

There is held each year two normal institutes, under the management of a normal school conductor, assisted by the county superintendent and most able and prominent teachers. These institutes are of incalculable benefit. They present the best and standard methods of teaching; experiences of the most successful in the profession; the drill, the discipline and the elementary nature of the work, and are calculated to fit the teacher for abler methods of greater uniformity and of larger results in the school room.

School boards and school patrons are of late turning their attention to the providing of text books for their districts of greater uniformity, and of school furnishing in maps, globes, seats and desks. The outlay in this direction during the last school year has been large. The profession is becoming less and less an itineracy, good teachers being retained in the old places at an increased salary. An extract is here offered from State superintendent Whitford's report for 1880–1 :

"The returns from Vernon county are peculiarly satisfactory. Here an earnest and general attention has been given to the compulsory law. The present county superintendent, William Haughton, as well as his immediate predecessor, has labored faithfully to enlist the interest of the teachers, school boards and other prominent citizens in the different districts, in securing a hearty compliance with the terms of the law.

'In my opinion, its power to influence parents and guardians in sending their children to school has been tested in this county as thoroughly as in any other section of the State. The increase in the attendance of children of school age the past year was 841, while the increase in school population was only 100. The percentage of attendance of these children upon public schools was eighty, and of the children between seven and fifteen years of age it was ninety-one. These are excellent results ; and if the same could be reached in other localities the State would have no reason to complain of the "neglect of very many of the citizens to furnish their children the advantages of an elementary education."

"Mr. Haughton, the present superintendent, writes in reference to the facts above stated :

"Doubtless, the compulsory law has much to do with this increase of attendance, and yet I find that Vernon county people are steadily awakening to the necessity of giving their children all the benefits of our common schools."

There is yet much to do. The battle has not yet been won. May the time soon come when the school houses will adorn the county, when the last log cabin will have disappeared and in its place will stand the neat edifice with pleasant surroundings, calculated to train and elevate the ideas of the beautiful in the hearts and minds of the children, and when every man and woman, every youth and maiden in this beautiful country will have risen to a larger conception of what America offers them and expects from them in return. A great people, a grand future, to be reached not so much by wealth or by victory on the battle field as through the agency and power of the common schools.

It will be seen by the following figures that the schools are still steadily though slowly increasing :

PROSPERITY OF THE SCHOOLS.

There are four towns in which there are public school libraries containing about 250 volumes, cash value of which is supposed to be $110 to $120.

One hundred and forty-three schools, in which are good blackboards, twenty having charts, 102 having good maps, forty-one having globes, and 130 supplied with Webster's large dictionary. There have been employed 250 teachers, of both sexes, during the year, about seventy of whom were males.

The salaries of the males averaged $28 per month, and that of females, $22.

Average number of months in which school kept, about seven and a half. There has been a very decided gain, both in length of school term and in teachers' wages, in the past few years.

Average scholarship on authorized standard about seventy-five per cent. on females and seventy-seven and a half on males. A few received only a six months license, but the greater part a year's certificate.

About fifty of the schools have adopted the course of study arranged and recommended by

State superintendent. Others have in part tried it. The difficulties in the way are numerous, but persevering teachers are overcoming them. The list of studies as prescribed by the State is as follows:

Orthoepy, orthography, reading, penmanship, arithmetic, grammar, geography, United States history, civil government, and theory and art of teaching. In these, third grade applicants are examined. In addition, for second grade, candidates are examined in elementary algebra, higher grammar, physical geography and physiology. For first grade, in addition thereto, higher algebra, geometry and natural philosophy or physics.

But few of the teachers have obtained first grade certificates, and of these few the males preponderate. A larger number obtain second grade, and these certificates are held almost wholly by females.

A teachers' association has been held at Ontario during the winter. The state of the roads and the distance to available points are such as to make such gatherings less frequent and more sparsely attended than they ought to be. It is to be hoped they will in time be more numerous and better attended than they are now.

Ray's and Robinson's arithmetics; McGuffey's, Sander's and the Union readers; Monteith's, Harper's, and Swinton's geographies; Kerl's, Harvey's and Swinton's grammars, have of late been the popular text books in the county: yet of late, too, Appleton's series, especially the reader, is working its way into the schools. So, also, is Fish's arithmetic and Olney's algebra. Evan's little work on geometry is growing into favor in the high and graded schools.

One thousand dollars and twenty cents has been expended in private schools during the year, the whole for teachers' wages. There are nineteen of these schools.

The expenditure over any former year in amount of outlay for teachers' wages is upward of $6,000 while that of amount total for school purposes is $10,000 to $10,500. The extra cost of school buildings the past year, excluding any other year, is some $6,000 to $7,000. The county having spent $11,322 for building during the last year.

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1882 TO 1883.

Whole number of children of school age in county	9038
Whole number who have attended school	6790
Whole number of days school has been taught	24148
Number of teachers required to teach the schools	160
Whole number of public American schools in county	160
Number of private schools in county	19
Average wages paid teachers per month	$24, 81½
Number of visits paid by the county superintendent	132
Number of addresses and lectures given on education	25
Number of districts which have adopted list text books	85
Percentage of enrollment of children of school age	78
Percentage of enrollment of children between 7 and 15	87¼
Number of new school houses built during the year	13
Amount of cost of these school houses	$11, 322
Amount of outlay for teachers' wages	$25, 326
Total amount for all school purposes	$38, 168
Number of graded schools in the county	4
Number of high schools	2

CHAPTER XXIX.

VARIOUS THINGS.

As the years pass away there are transpiring continually in the county incidents of importance, which, in their nature, only require brief mention, but which cannot well be overlooked. Some of these are so transient in their character, that, by much the larger portion of the people, they are soon forgotten; but what may seem unimportant now may become exceedingly important to future generations. It is the office of this chapter to preserve these small things, awaiting the time when each shall no longer seem like "an insubstantial pageant faded."

A PIONEER INCIDENT.

Lee Grant Sterling, in 1847, carried his plow on his shoulders from West Prairie to Mt. Sterling, in Crawford county, on his way to Prairie du Chien to get it sharpened. At Mt. Sterling, his load getting rather heavy, he hired a horse and rode the residue of the distance. On his way back he overtook Alexander Latshaw, whose wife was a relative, and a joyful meeting was, of course, the result. Mr. Latshaw was just then on his way out to settle in the county.

CENSUS OF 1847.

As the present county of Vernon before its formation by the Legislature in 1851, as Bad Ax county, was a part of Crawford county, the settlers up to that date were, of course, residents of the last mentioned county. On the 1st day of December, 1847, an enumeration of the heads of families, the number of males in each family, lso the number of females was taken in the Mt. Sterling precinct, No. 2, by the census taker of that year, with the following result:

Heads of Families or Principal Person.	White Males.	White Females.	Total
Ira Stevens	1		1
John Miller	5	3	8
Philander Green	3	2	5
William T. Sterling	3	4	7
George Nichols	1	2	3
John Teavalt	6	2	8
James A. Clark	4	5	9
Alexander Latshaw	2	1	3
Joseph Heck	2	1	2
S. Bacon	2		2
Thomas Lewis	2		2
Hugh Moore	3		3
Esau Johnson	11	5	16
J. D. Gay	8		8
Ezekiel Tainter	3	4	7
James A. Cooke	1	2	3
John Hemerson	3	3	6
Thomas Gillett	2	2	4
Elisha Seeley	2	2	4
John Graham	6	8	14
Clemant Spaulding	3	3	6
M. Cheatham	4	1	5
Elisha Jinks	3		3
William Spencer	3	6	9
John Reed	6	2	8
Samuel Ingraham	2		2
Thomas J. Defrees	3	5	8
Jacob Johnson	1	1	2
Henry Seifert	2	1	3
Abraham Stiles	3	4	7
George A. Swain	5	2	7
George P. Taylor	1	1	2
Michael Hinkst	1		1
Samuel G. Rice	2	6	8
George Pike	1	2	3
Owen Whigyle	5	1	6
Philip Snyder	1		1
J. Warner	3	2	5
Bangill Roberts	2	1	3
Andrew Neiborn	1		1
Francis Patnell	4	3	7
Joseph Godfry	5		5
	134	89	223

THE M. E. CHURCH FROM 1851 TO 1859.

In the year 1851 a Mr. Stevens was appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Conference to the Bad Ax charge, as it was called, and he labored zealously in the cause, preaching in turn at

Viroqua, the Bad Ax school house, occasionally at the dwelling of James Foster, and at other private dwellings throughout the district, which included the whole of the present Vernon county.

In the year 1852 the conference appointed Nicholas Mayne to the charge. Mr. Mayne was a quiet, zealous Christian, patient under all circumstances; not a very fluent speaker, but correct and impressive. He resided under the same roof with D. G. A. Swain, and had for his places of preaching, the dwelling of Mr. Swain, Viroqua, Bad Ax, Springville and Coon Prairie. Mr. Mayne was also appointed to the same charge for the ensuing year, and his field of labor before the close of the second year became much enlarged, the Church increased in numbers and his services were well attended. The camp meetings were still carried on during the specified period in each year in the valley near the residence of J. A. Cooke, with increased additions to the Church. It was about at the time of the closing labors of Mr. Mayne when, in consequence of the great additions to the Church, both by new converts and those coming in by letter, that it became necessary to make preparations for the building of a meeting house.

Upon the close of Mr. Mayne's appointment to the Bad Ax circuit, the conference sent Mr. Cooley to the charge. Mr. Cooley's places of preaching were the same as those of Mr. Mayne. We cannot find from the facts collected in reference to Mr. Cooley's labors among the brethren of the Bad Ax circuit, that he formed any new societies, though many additions were made to those already formed.

At the close of the labors of Mr. Cooley on the circuit, Mr. Perdunn, who had preached to the first Church at Bad Ax, was sent back on the charge. Mr. Perdunn was a warm-hearted speaker and a zealous Christian. He labored earnestly among the brethren near half his appointment, when sickness in his family called him home. He left the charge with the blessings of the Church resting on him and returned to his home to witness the expiring moments of his beloved wife, who died triumphantly in the faith which her husband had so zealously preached for many years.

At the calling away of Mr. Perdunn from the charge, it was left without any minister, until James Bishop and Mr. McIndoe generously proffered their services to the brethren for the remaining portion of Mr. Perdunn's appointment. They labored zealously in the good work of building up the societies and consolidating the energies of the Church in general; and the cause received a lively impetus from their labors.

The Church considering its infancy and the adverse circumstances which its supporters had to encounter in the wilderness; the sacrifice which was necessary to be made on the part of the ministers, by leaving their homes in distant places and coming among the brethren to preach, receiving but a pittance for their labors except the warm friendship and hospitality of the members; notwithstanding all this, the Church prospered and increased continually; prayer meetings began to be held in many places, and a general spirit of piety and devotion was diffused among the settlers; and few new countries have ever witnessed a more general reign of religious freedom during its first settlement than did the county of Bad Ax.

In the summer of 1850 Elder Hobart, of Prairie du Chien, visited the Church in Bad Ax, in his official capacity, and presided at the second camp meeting. This camp meeting was held under more favorable circumstances than the one the previous year. When the elder and many of his ministering brethren made their appearance among the members and resident ministers of the circuit, there was great rejoicing. It was to them as the re-enforcement of the army in the days of Wellington. Blucher had come and victory hailed his approach; and he appeared as one "born out of due time."

Elder Hobart appeared as the first elder in the Bad Ax charge, and at the second camp

meeting held on the old ground in the year 1850. Some, perhaps, may think this is not the fact, that he was not the first one that visited the Church in an official capacity, that Elder Wood visited the charge prior to the coming of Elder Hobart. It is true that Elder Wood, as has heretofore been mentioned, visited the settlement, leaving an appointment to preach, which appointment was filled by Mr. Thomas, at the house of T. J. DeFrees, but Mr. Wood, afterwards elder, was not elder at that time, but was minister in charge on the Black river circuit.

One fact should have been mentioned in the account of the itinerant ministers, in relation to the visits of Wm. Tascar, who visited the Bad Ax Church in the spring of 1849. Mr. Tascar was more theoretical than practical in his preaching, and lacked, apparently, the physical energy necessary to surmount all difficulties to be encountered in a new country. However, on his departure, his place was ably filled by other ministers whose names have already been mentioned, which brings this narrative down to the date of 1856, and the appointment of George W. Hartshorn, of Lafayette county, to the Viroqua circuit.

It became necessary about this time to divide the district, which was done the fall previous to the appointment of Mr. Hartshorn.

The circuit was divided north and south, leaving about one-third or one-half lying along the Mississippi river and the remainder to comprise the eastern part of the county, which received the name of the "Viroqua charge," and the river charge that of "Newton."

To the Newton circuit G. W. Nuzum was appointed first minister in the year 1856 and he made his place of residence the village of Newton, situated on the Bad Ax river. His places of preaching were Newton, Springville, Bad Ax City (now Genoa) and several private dwellings.

Mr. Nuzum was a man of diminutive stature, young and not of sufficient physical ability to carry out the yearnings of his soul and the activity and energy of his mind. He was a lively and active worker in the Church, much devoted to the cause and his every-day life a continuous sermon.

Mr. Hartshorn was a man of heavy and apparently robust stature, a good scholar, but not classical; a good physician and minister, competent to cure both body and soul. He labored earnestly on his charge, filling his place creditably, and the next year was appointed to a district in Grant county, and took up his residence at the quiet and pleasant village of Boscobel, on the Wisconsin river.

As early as the year of 1850 so many societies had been organized throughout the district, and these societies had to be visited by the minister, and, as yet, dwelling houses being scarce, at least unoccupied ones, that it was difficult to find one wherein the minister might live and enjoy his leisure hours in seclusion—devoted to his work. To remove this difficulty Mr. Perdunn granted to the Church, to be used as a parsonage, one acre of land off his farm which lay two miles northeast of the village of Viroqua. This parsonage was situated opposite the dwelling of George Dacy, in a beautiful grove of hickory and ash, on the skirts of the prairie.

When Mr. Stevens was sent to the charge, he erected a cabin on the parsonage, the people of the neighborhood lending a very generous aid. Mr. Stevens cut away the underbrush from the ground, trimming the shrubbery and creating quite an attractive appearance about the premises.

Mr. Cooley afterwards occupied the parsonage during his appointment, but some time after he retired from the charge the house and ground came into dispute, arising from the sale of the farm from which it was taken, and the Church tacitly relinquished its claim and the premises ceased to be used for its benefit. After the relinquishment of the claim on this tenement, the ministers took up their residence with the families of the members, or were provided otherwise with dwellings of some kind by them.

At the time when Mr. Bishop and Mr. McIndoe were filling the place of Mr. Perdunn, they conceived the idea of building a house for worship in Viroqua.

During the years 1853, 1854 and 1855, the rush of emigration was so great to Bad Ax county and accessions to the Methodist Church were so numerous that it became difficult to find a house large enough to contain the attendants; and to remove this inconvenience, Mr. McIndoe started a subscription paper for the purpose of building a meeting house. This subscription was dated May 29, 1856. The members all subscribed liberally. Some as high as $100 and many who were members of other Churches donated lumber, and some labor, and others who were not members of any Church aided materially in building the house. During the coming summer D. S. Connelly put in a bid for the erection of the building and got the contract. He prosecuted the work with vigor and the following year services were held in the new church.

Mr. McIndoe's subscription list footed up $343.22. After this another subscription paper was circulated for the purpose of completing the building—painting and plastering and other work.

This was the first building for public worship erected by the Methodist Church in the county; and having a building for the general meeting of the Church, the different classes were attended at dwellings and school houses until it became necessary to erect buildings in other localities. Mr. Hartshorn preached the first sermon in the new church in Viroqua.

No doubt the annual camp-meeting did much toward the building up and strengthening the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bad Ax county. They were held three years successively on the same grounds, with the exception of the last year of the three, when they located a site within a few hundred yards of the former grounds, holding the meeting once, after which they prepared new grounds in the grove about one mile east of Viroqua, where they held their meetings successively for three year, which brings this narrative to July, 1858.

Many hundreds of new converts were made at these meetings; members were strengthened in the faith; prayer meetings and revival meetings followed; and thus a religious spirit went forth perhaps without a parallel in any newly settled country in the west. Other Churches caught the fire of their zeal and crowded on their own work, sometimes joining with them in the great labor of Christianizing the land.

In the fall of 1857, during the first year of the appointment of J. E. Fitch to the Viroqua circuit, a union meeting was held at the new church in Viroqua, wherein Mr. Dean, Baptist missionary, and J. E. Fitch, minister in charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church, united for the purpose of showing to the world how well Christians could agree, and to show their love for the churches; and a revival ensued whereby many were saved from the sin of the world, taken into the Churches. About 200 were added to the M. E. Church during the first year of the labors of Mr. Fitch throughout the circuit.

New Brookville, a pleasant little village had in the meantime sprung up, four miles south of Viroqua, at which place Dr. G. A. Swain resided, who had already done much toward building up a Church in that place. He first built a neat little dwelling in the village to be occupied by the circuit ministers; but during the appointment of Mr. Hartshorn a slight difficulty arose between him and the doctor, which resulted in the removal of Mr. Hartshorn to Viroqua. What the difficulty was it is needless to mention. Mr. Hartshorn found in Viroqua many warm friends and a comfortable dwelling.

The Church at New Brookville so increased that it became necessary to have a building larger than any already there for the attendants to meet in; and Dr. Swain went to work in his usual persevering style, and a meeting house was soon erected.

Previous to the building of the church at New Brookville, on account of the inconvenience of so many in one class, it was divided, one part still meeting at the parsonage in the village, and the other class meeting at the school house, known to many as the Robinson school house, two miles northeast of the village. The place of meeting of the new class became a regular place of preaching, and William Cox was appointed leader of the class. During the winter of 1857 a revival took place among the new class, under the preaching of John Whitworth and J. A. Cooke, and many were converted and the class greatly increased and strengthened.

About this time was the great revival throughout the United States. Never before in its history was there known to be such a general turning to the Lord; and the Methodist Church in Bad Ax county took an exceeding active part and had a bountiful share of new-born souls as a reward for her Christian zeal. New societies sprang up in every direction. New ministers took up the sword and helmet and battled valiantly, and peace was multiplied in the Church. The era of the revival of 1857 will never be erased from the annals of the Church in Bad Ax county, or from the memories of the people.

In the spring of 1858, the Church in New Brookville commenced the erection of a building for public worship at that place, under the superintendence of Dr. G. A. Swain, as already intimated. The building was situated on a beautiful eminence in the outskirts of the village. It was finished the following fall, and the dedicatory sermon preached by Elder A. H. Walters, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1858. The building was well finished, and was an ornament to the village and neighborhood where it was erected, and an honor to the Church in general.

In the spring of 1859 conference made an appointment at New Brookville, and sent thither J. J. Walker. This was the first appointment at that place and the third one in the county. Mr. Walker's places of preaching were New Brookville, Bad Ax, and in few school houses and dwellings throughout the circuit of his appointment.

After the expiration of Elder Hobart's term of office as presiding elder, Elder R. Wood was appointed to the upper district. About the year 1853, Elder A. Brunson was appointed and following him was Elder A.H. Walters, who was afterward presiding elder, by re-appointment.

The next church building of the Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the town of Webster near the residence of Simeon Adams, who for many years was a leader of the class at that place. They had occasional preaching there by J. Whitworth, J. A. Cooke and Robert Adams. In June, 1859, the ministerial appointments for Bad Ax county were : A. Foster, stationed at Viroqua; H. H. Smith, at Newton ; and J. J. Walker at New Brookville.

AN AEROLITE.

"We will not announce," says the *Western Times*, of Aug. 16, 1856, "as an item of news, the fact that a few days, since a fire-ball or meteor was seen to fall near this village (Viroqua), and that the stone or mass of native metal which caused the phenomenon, was afterwards found on the surface of the earth. But the occurrence has given rise to the question. what is the cause of so strange an appearance ? Several theories have been advanced to account for these bodies, the scientific name of which is aerolites. They are composed of metal in an igneous spongy form, showing the action of heat, and apparently of volcanic origin? They cannot proceed from any volcano upon the earth ; but one of the theories is that they are projected from volcanoes of the moon with such force as to be cast beyond the sphere of the moon's attraction and within that of the earth.

"Others suppose they are fragments of a planet or comet, or matter existing in space between the planets; and as the earth meets them in her orbit, they are brought within the sphere of her attraction and to her surface. In passing

from a rarer to a denser atmosphere, they are heated and form sometimes shooting stars and sometimes ærolites or meteoric stars. In the latter form, they fall to the ground, and produce the curious phenomenon which has called our attention to the subject."

DEATH OF MOSES DECKER.

(From the Northwestern *Times*, Aug. 8 1860.)

It is with sincere regret we record the death of Moses Decker, Esq., which occurred in this village (Viroqua) on Saturday, the 4th inst.

Mr. Decker had reached his three score years and ten, being in his seventy-second year. He was born in the State of New York, and portions of his life were spent in that State, in Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin. During the War of 1812–15, he was living in Ohio, was drafted as a soldier and served one campaign.

In January, 1847, he removed with his family on to the ground now occupied by the village of Viroqua, cutting his way with an ax. He had, previous to the moving of his family here, selected his lands, and soon after his arrival they were entered. When Bad Ax county was organized, Mr. Decker laid out the village of Viroqua, and as an inducement to locate the county seat here, offered to donate forty acres to the county, adjoining the village plat, to aid in the erection of county buildings. Viroqua became the county seat and Mr. Decker conveyed to the county board of supervisors the forty acre tract.

Since his removal here Mr. Decker has seen Bad Ax county organized and its population increase from a few families to 10,000 souls. He has seen churches and school houses spring up all around him, and the wilderness made to bloom like a garden. Amid all the changes and improvements that have been made Mr. Decker has stood in our midst like one of the ancient landmarks. But at last he is gone!

"Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever?" No; one by one, the links that bind the present to the past are sundered, and we look with sadness for a moment on the vacancy made by their removal, and then, hurried along by the waves, we float down the stream of time, soon forgetting the forms and faces that have been borne away from us forever.

Mr. Decker's first wife died Jan. 3, 1859. He was married again to Mrs. Anna Goode, widow of the late Thomas Goode, Esq., who survives him.

Eleven children scattered through the States of Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and California mourn his loss.

STARTING A PAPER UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

J. A. Somerby, of Madison, Wis., early in the spring of 1856, walked through from his home to Viroqua to look up the prospects for establishing a paper at the county seat of Vernon county. After his arrival he made arrangements with prominent men of the village to raise money to assist in getting his family, printing press and printing materials from Madison; this was effected by employing three teams which brought the whole to Viroqua. The first issue of the paper (the *Western Times*) was gotten out in the building then used as a court house—a hewed log, one-story edifice.

THE BUCKEYE ON FIRE.

On Sunday morning, about 7 o'clock our citizens were alarmed by the cry of "*Fire at the Buckeye.*" Fire had communicated to a bed in a room in the second story. When discovered the room was full of smoke and flame; but Mr. (Jeremiah M.) Rusk rushed into the room and succeeded in partially stifling the fire, when he fell from the effects of suffocation and exhaustion and crawled to the door, when he again rushed in and brought out a burning trunk. Mr. Rusk's hands are very badly burned, so much so that he will not have the use of them for several weeks.

The flames were effectually subdued in a short time by the citizens who collected in a few moments and showered snow upon the fire. Damages about $300. We bespeak a liberal patronage for our popular high sheriff, the keeper of

the Buckeye House, who is thus suddenly crippled for a second time within a few months, he having had the misfortune to put his knee out of joint early in the spring in landing from a Mississippi steamer.— *Western Times, Dec.* 13, 1865.

WHAT WAS IT?

[From the Viroqua County *Censor*, April 4, 1866].

A strange noise was heard by many people in this vicinity last Thursday. Some say it was in the air and resembled the noise made by the rush and whirl of a tornado; while some think the noise was in the earth, and that there was a shock similar to the shock of an earthquake.

The noise was heard in other places; we have intelligence that it was noticed in Richland and Crawford counties. It seems to have been a somewhat mysterious noise; for no one can tell just what it was like, or where it seemed to be. If it was a light shock of an earthquake, and will never be any more serious than it was on this occasion, no one will care much about it; but if it was a tornado, our people must be excused for having a wholesome terror of it, the one last year having been such a fearful visitor that we do not like to think that we can possibly have another.

WILD CATS AND WOLVES.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, Jan. 1, 1868.]

Mr. John R. Casson, clerk of the board of supervisors, informs us that he has received during the month of December, 1867, applications for bounty on forty-three wild cats and one wolf. The county bounty being abolished, the hunters get only the $10, the State bounty, which, however, will bring $440 on this account —a handsome sum. The wolves seem to be about all killed out. During the summer and fall they were much more numerous for wolf bounties; but they have gradually dwindled away to one a month.

A CALL FOR FACTS.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, Feb. 26, 1868.]

To the friends and relatives of deceased soldiers:

It is more than probable that at some future day Vernon county will erect a suitable monument to the memory of her soldiers slain in the late war or who died from disease contracted in the service.

It is probable, too, that some person may undertake to preserve in book form a short history of the part performed by Vernon county soldiers in suppressing the rebellion.

I wish, therefore, that the friends of deceased soldier would send to me, if they can, the full name of such deceased soldier, the date of enlistment, the various actions in which such soldier engaged, etc., and such other facts concerning the history of the soldier as the friends may see proper.

I wish, too, that all of Vernon county soldiers who had commissions in the service would furnish me with the date of their various commissions, their first enlistment, the principal actions in which they engaged, etc.

Now, friends of soldiers, do not be afraid to write me and write at once. I do not care how poor your penmanship is, nor how bad your spelling is. I only ask you to write all your communications on good, clean paper. If I should not use the materials myself, I will carefully preserve them, so that they can be used by somebody.

R. C. Bierce.

BEARS.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, July 29, 1868.]

Just east of this village (Viroqua), two or three bears seem to have taken up their quarters, making themselves quite at home. Not long since, Mr. Brothers, on rising in the morning, found several of these animals composedly sitting on their haunches at his door-step, and he being unarmed was not able to secure the prize thus almost within his reach. The other day we hear Mr. "Put" White was chased from his field to his house by an old bear with two cubs. Unless the "varmint" are careful our market will soon be supplied with bear meat.

CLIMATOLOGY OF VERNON COUNTY.

The climate of a country, or that peculiar state of the atmosphere in regard to heat and moisture which prevails in any given place,

and which directly affects the growth of plants and animals, is determined by the following causes: 1st. Distance from the equator. 2d. Distance from the sea. 3d. Height above the sea. 4th. Prevailing winds; and 5th. Local influences, such as soil, vegetation and proximity to lakes and mountains.

Of these causes, the first, distance from the equator, is by far the most important. The warmest climates are necessarily those of tropical regions where the sun's rays are vertical. But in proceeding from the equator toward the poles, less and less heat continues to be received by the same extent of surface, because the rays fall more and more obliquely, and the same amount of heat-rays therefore spread over an increasing breadth of surface; while, however, with the increase of obliquity, more and more heat is absorbed by the atmosphere, as the amount of air to be penetrated is greater. If the earth's surface were either wholly land or water, and its atmosphere motionless, the gradations of climate would run parallel with the latitudes from the equator to the poles. But owing to the irregular distribution of land and water and the prevailing winds, such an arrangement is impossible, and the determination of the real climate of a given region, and its causes, is one of the most difficult problems of science.

On the second of these causes, distance from the sea, depends the difference between oceanic and continental climates. Water is more slowly heated and cooled than land; the climates of the sea and the adjacent land are therefore much more equal and moist than those of the interior.

A decrease of temperature is noticeable in ascending high mountains. The rate at which the temperature falls with the height above the sea is a very variable quantity, and is influenced by a variety of causes, such as latitude, situation, moisture, or dryness, hour of the day and season of the year. As a rough approximation, however, the fall of 1 deg. of the thermometer for every 300 feet is usually adopted.

Air in contact with any part of the earth's surface, tends to acquire the temperature of that surface. Hence, winds from the north are cold; those from the south are warm. Winds from the sea are moist, and winds from the land are usually dry. Prevailing winds are the result of the relative distribution of atmospheric pressure blowing from places where the pressure is highest, toward places where it is lowest. As climate practically depends on the temperature and moisture of the air, and as these again depend on the prevailing winds which come charged with the temperature and moisture of the regions they have traversed, it is evident that charts showing the mean pressure of the atmosphere give us the key to the climates of the different regions of the world. The effect of prevailing winds is seen in the moist and equable climate of western Europe, especially Great Britain, owing to the warm and moist southwest winds; and in the extremes of the eastern part of North America, due to the warm and moist winds prevailing in summer and the Arctic blasts of winter.

Among local influences which modify climate, the nature of the soil is one of the most important. As water absorbs much heat, wet, marshy ground usually lowers the mean temperature. A sandy waste presents the greatest extremes. The extremes of temperature are also modified by extensive forests, which prevent the soil from being as much warmed and cooled as it would be if bare. Evaporation goes on more slowly under the trees, since the soil is screened from the sun. And as the air among the trees is little agitated by the wind, the vapor is left to accumulate, and hence the humidity of the air is increased. Climate is modified in a similar manner by lakes and other large surfaces of water. During summer the water cools the air and reduces the temperature of the locality. In winter, on the other hand, the opposite effect is produced.

The surface water which is cooled sinks to lower levels; the warmer water rising to the surface, radiates heat into the air and thus raises the temperature of the neighboring region. This influence is well illustrated, on a great scale, in our own State by Lake Michigan.

It is, lastly, of importance whether a given tract of country is diversified by hills, valleys and mountains. Winds with their warm vapor strike the sides of mountains and are forced up into higher levels of the atmosphere, where the vapor is condensed into clouds. Air coming in contact, during the night or in winter, with the cooled declivities of hills and rising grounds becomes cooled and consequently denser and sinks to the low-lying grounds, displacing the warmer and lighter air. Hence, frosts often occur at these places, when no trace of them can be found at higher levels. For the same reason the cold of winter is generally more intense in ravines and valleys than on hill tops and high grounds, the valleys being a receptacle for the cold-air currents which descend from all sides. These currents give rise to gusts and blasts of cold wind, which are simply the out-rush of cold air from such basins. This is a subject of great practical importance to fruit-growers.

In order to understand the principal features of the climate of Vernon county, and the conditions on which these depend, it is necessary to consider the general climatology of Wisconsin, particularly of the western portion of the State, of which Vernon county is a part; and from this, the reader can readily deduce the character of the climate in the county.

The remarkable manner in which so large a body of water as Lake Michigan modifies the temperature has been carefully determined, so far as it relates to Wisconsin, by the late Dr. Lapham, of Milwaukee. It is seen by the map that the average summer temperature of Racine is the same as that of St. Paul. The weather map for July, 1875, in the signal service report for 1876, shows that the mean temperature for July was the same in Rock county, in the southern part of the State, as that of Breckenridge, Minn., north of St. Paul. The moderating effect of the lake during hot weather is felt in the adjacent region during both day and night.

Countries in the higher latitudes having an extreme summer temperature are usually characterized by a small amount of rain-fall. The Mississippi valley, however, is directly exposed in spring and summer to the warm and moist winds from the south, and as these winds condense their moisture by coming in contact with colder upper currents from the north and west, it has a profusion of rain which deprives the climate largely of its continental features. As already stated, the average amount of rain-fall in Wisconsin is about thirty inches annually. Of this amount about one-eighth is precipitated in winter, three-eights in summer, and the rest is equally distributed between spring and autumn—in other words, rain is abundant at the time of the year when it is most needed. In Wisconsin the rainfall is greatest in the southwestern part of the State; the least on and along the shore of Lake Michigan. This shows that the humidity of the air of a given area can be greater, and the rainfall less than that of some other.

In comparison with western Europe, even where the mean temperature is higher than in the Mississippi valley, the most striking fact in the climatic conditions of the United States is the great range of plants of tropical or subtropical origin, such as Indian corn, tobacco, etc. The conditions on which the character of the vegetation depends are temperature and moisture, and the mechanical and chemical composition of the soil.

The basis of this great capacity (the great range of plants) is the high curve of heat and moisture for the summer, and the fact that the measure of heat and of rain are almost or quite tropical for a period in duration from one to five months, in the range from Quebec to the

coast of the Gulf. Indian corn attains its full perfection between the summer isotherms 72 deg. and 77 deg., in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas ; but it may be grown up to the line of 65 degs., which includes the whole of Wisconsin. The successful cultivation of this important staple is due to the intense heat of summer and a virgin soil rich in nitrogen.

While Milwaukee and central Wisconsin have a mean annual temperature of 45 deg., that of southern Ireland and central England is 50 deg.; the line of 72 deg, the average temperature for July, runs from Walworth county to St. Paul, while during the same month Ireland and England have a mean temperature of only 60 deg. In Wisconsin, the thermometer rises as high as 90 deg. and above, while the range above the mean in England is very small. It is the tropical element of our summers, then, that causes the grape, the corn, etc., to ripen, while England, with a higher mean temperature, is unable to mature them successfully. Ireland, where southern plants may remain out-doors, unfrosted the whole winter, cannot mature those fruits and grasses which ripen in Wisconsin. In England a depression of 2 deg. below the mean of 60 deg. will greatly reduce the quantity, or prevent the ripening of wheat altogether, 60 deg. being essential to a good crop. Wheat requiring a lower temperature than corn, is better adapted to the climate of Wisconsin. This grain may be grown as far north as Hudson bay.

Autumn, including September, October and November, is of short duration in Wisconsin. North of the 42d parallel, or the southern boundary line of the State, November belongs properly to the winter months, its mean temperature being about 32 deg. The decrease of heat from August to September is generally from 8 deg. to 9 deg.; 11 deg. from September to October, and 14 deg. from October to November. The average temperature for these three months is about 45 deg. A beautiful season, commonly known as Indian summer, frequently occurs in the latter part of October and in November. This period is characterized by a mild temperature and a hazy, calm atmosphere. According to Loomis, this appears to be due to "an uncommonly tranquil condition of the atmosphere, during which the air becomes filled with dust and smoke arising from numerous fires, by which its transparency is greatly impaired." This phenomenon extends as far north as Lake Superior, but it is more conspicuous and protracted in Kansas and Missouri, and is not observed in the southern States.

Destructive frosts generally occur in September, and sometimes in August. "A temperature of 36 deg. to 40 deg. at sunrise is usually attended with frosts destructive to vegetation, the position of the thermometer being usually such as to represent less than the actual refrigeration at the open surface." In 1875, during October, at Milwaukee, the mercury fell seven times below the freezing point, and twice below zero in November, the lowest being 14 deg.

The winters are generally long and severe, but occasionally mild and almost without snow. The mean winter temperature varies between 23 deg. in the southeastern part of the State, and 16 deg. at Ashland, in the northern. For this season the extremes are great. The line of 20 deg. is of importance, as it marks the average temperature which is fatal to the growth of all the tender trees, such as the pear and the peach. In the winter of 1875–'76, the mean temperature for December, January and February, in the upper lake region, was about 4 deg. above the average mean for many years, while during the previous winter the average temperature for January and February was about 12 deg. below the mean for many years, showing a great difference between cold and mild winters. In the same winter, 1875—76, at Milwaukee, the thermometer fell only six times below zero, the lowest being 12 deg., while during the preceding winter the mercury sank thirty-six times below zero, the lowest being 23 deg. In the northern and northwestern

part of the State the temperature sometimes falls to the freezing point of mercury. During the exceptionally cold winter of 1872–3, at LaCrosse, the thermometer sank nearly fifty times below zero; on December 24, it indicated 37 deg. below, and on January 18, 43 deg. below zero, averaging about 12 deg. below the usual mean for those months. The moderating effect of Lake Michigan can be seen by observing how the lines indicating the mean winter temperature curve northward as they approach the lake. Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Two Rivers and the Grand Traverse region of Michigan, have the same average winter temperature. The same is true regarding Galena, Ill., Beloit and Kewaunee. A similar influence is noticed in all parts of the State. Dr. Lapham concludes that this is not wholly due to the presence of Lake Michigan, but that the mountain range which extends from a little west of Lake Superior to the coast of Labrador (from 1,100 to 2,240 feet high) protects the lake region in no inconsiderable degree from the excessive cold of winter.

According to the same authority, the time at which the Milwaukee river was closed with ice, for a period of nine years, varied between November 15 and December 1; the time at which it became free from ice, between March 3 and April 13. In the lake district, snow and rain are interspersed through all the winter months, rain being sometimes as profuse as at any other season. In the northwestern part the winter is more rigid and dry. Northern New York and the New England States usually have snow lying on the ground the whole winter, but in the southern lake district it rarely remains so long. In 1842–43, however, sleighing commenced about the middle of November, and lasted till about the same time in April—five months.

The average temperature for the three months of spring, March, April and May, from Walworth county to St. Paul, is about 45 deg. In central Wisconsin the mean for March is about 27 deg., which is an increase of nearly 7 deg. from February. The lowest temperature of this month in 1876 was 40 deg. above zero. April shows an average increase of about 9 deg. over March. In 1876 the line of 45 deg. for this month passed from LaCrosse to Evanston, Illinois, touching Lake Erie at Toledo, showing that the interior west of Lake Michigan is warmer than the lake region. The change from winter to spring is more sudden in the interior than in the vicinity of the lakes. "In the town of Lisbon, fifteen miles from Lake Michigan," says Dr. Lapham, "early spring flowers show themselves about ten days earlier than on the lake. In spring, vegetation in places remote from the lakes, shoots up in a very short time, and flowers show their petals, while on the lake shore the cool air retards them and brings them more gradually into existence." The increase from April to May is about fifteen degrees. In May 1876 Pembina and Milwaukee had nearly the same mean temperature, about 55 degrees.

The extremes of our climate and the sudden changes of temperature no doubt have a marked influence, both physically and mentally, on the American people. And though a more equable climate may be more conducive to perfect health, the great range of our climate from arctic to trophical. and the consequent variety and abundance of vegetable products, combine to make the Mississippi valley, perhaps, one of the most favorable areas in the world for the development of a strong and wealthy Nation.

During the months of summer, in the interior of the eastern United States, at least three fourths of the rainfall is in showers usually accompanied by electrical discharges and limited to small areas. But in autumn, winter and spring, nearly the whole precipitation takes place in general storms extending over areas of 300, 500 and sometimes over 1,000 miles in diameter, and generally lasting two or three day. An area of low atmospheric pressure causes the wind to blow toward that area from all sides, and when the depression is sudden and

great, it is accompanied by much rain or snow. On account of the earth's rotation, the wind blowing toward this region of low pressure is deflected to the right, causing the air to circulate around the center with a motion spirally inward. In our latitude the storm commences with east winds. When the storm center, or area of lowest barometer, is to the south of us, the wind gradually veers, as the storm passes from west to east with the upper current, round to the northwest by the north point. On the south side of the storm center the winds veer from southeast to southwest by the south point. The phenomena attending such a storm when we are in or near the part of its center are usually as follows: After the sky has become overcast with clouds, the wind from the northeast generally begins to rise and blows in the opposing direction to the march of the storm. The clouds which are now moving over us discharge rain or snow according to circumstances. The barometer continues to fall, and the rain or snow is brought obliquely down from the northern quarter by the prevaling wind. After a while the wind changes slightly in direction and then ceases. The thermometer rises and the barometer has reached its lowest point. This is the center of the storm. After the calm the wind has changed its direction to northwest or west. The wind blows again, usually more violently than before, accompanied by rain or snow, which is now generally of short duration. The sky clears, and the storm is suddenly succeeded by a temperature 10 or 20 degrees below the mean. Most of the rain and snow falls with the east winds, or before the center passes a given point. The path of these storms is from west to east, or nearly so, and only seldom in other directions. These autumn, winter and spring rains are generally first noticed on the western plains, but may originate at any point along their path, and move eastward with an average velocity of about twenty miles an hour in summer and thirty miles in winter, but sometimes attaining a velocity of over fifty miles, doing great damage on the lakes. In predicting these storms, the signal service of the army is of incalculable practical benefit, as well as in collecting data for scientific conclusions.

A subject of the greatest importance to every inhabitant of Wisconsin is the influence of forests on climate and the effects of disrobing a country of its trees. The general influence of forests in modifying the extremes of temperature, retarding evaporation and the increased humidity of the air, has already been mentioned. That clearing the land of trees increases the temperature of the ground in summer, is so readily noticed that it is scarcely necessary to mention it; while in winter the sensible cold is never so extreme in woods as on an open surface exposed to the full force of the winds. The lumbermen in Canada and the northern United States labor in the woods without inconvenience when the mercury stands many degrees below zero, while in the open grounds, with only a moderate breeze, the same temperature is almost insupportable. In the State of Michigan it has been found that the winters have greatly increased in severity within the last forty years, and that this increased severity seems to move along even-faced with the destruction of the forests. Thirty years ago the peach was one of the most abundant fruits of that State; at that time frost, injurious to corn at any time from May to October, was a thing unknown. Now the peach is an uncertain crop, and frost often injures the corn. The precise influence of forests on temperature may not at present admit of definite solution, yet the mechanical screen which they furnish to the soil, often far off to the leeward of them, is sufficiently established, and this alone is enough to encourage extensive planting wherever this protection is wanting.

With regard to the quantity of rain-fall, we cannot positively affirm that the total annual quantity of rain is even loclaly diminished or increased by the destruction of the woods, though both theoretical considerations and the

balance of testimony strongly favor the opinion that more rain falls in wooded than in open countries. One important conclusion, at least, upon the meteorological influence of forests is certain and undisputed; the proposition, namely, that, within their own limits, and near their own borders, they maintain a more uniform degree of humidity in the atmosphere than is observed in cleared grounds. Scarcely less can it be questioned that they tend to promote the frequency of showers, and, if they do not augment the amount of precipitation, they probably equalize its distribution through the different seasons.

There is abundant and undoubted evidence that the amount of water existing on the surface in lakes and rivers, in many parts of the world, is constantly diminishing. In Germany, observations of the Rhine, Oder, Danube and the Elbe, in the latter case going back for a period of 142 years, demonstrate beyond doubt that each of these rivers has much decreased in volume, and there is reason to fear that they will eventually disappear from the list of navigable rivers.

The Blue-Grass region of Kentucky, once the pride of the west, has now districts of such barren and arid nature that their stock farmers are moving toward the Cumberland mountains, because the creeks and old springs dried up, and their wells become too low to furnish water for their cattle. In our own State "such has been the change in the flow of the Milwaukee river, even while the area from which it receives its supply is but partially cleared, that the proprietors of most of the mills and factories have found it necessary to resort to the use of steam, at a largely increased yearly cost, to supply the deficiency of water-power in dry seasons of the year. What has happened to the Milwaukee river has happened to all the other water-courses in the State from whose banks the forest has been removed; and many farmers who selected land upon which there was a living brook of clear, pure water, now find these brooks dried up during a considerable portion of the year.

Districts stripped of their forest are said to be more exposed than before to loss of harvests, droughts and frost. Hurricanes, before unknown, sweep unopposed over the regions thus denuded, carrying terror and devastation in their track. Parts of Asia Minor, North Africa, and other countries bordering on the Mediterranean, now almost deserts, were once densely populated and the granaries of the world. And there is good reason to believe that it is the destruction of the forests which has produced this devastation. From such facts Wisconsin, already largely robbed of its forests, should take warning before it is too late.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE UNDERLYING FORMATIONS OF VERNON COUNTY.

[By T. C. Chamberlin, State Geologist.]

I.—Potsdam Sandstone.

After the great Archæan upheaval, there followed a long period, concerning which very little is known—a lost interval in geological history. It is only certain that immense erosion of the Archæan strata took place, and that in time the sea advanced upon the island, eroding its strata and redepositing the wash and wear beneath its surface. The more resisting beds withstood this advance, and formed reefs and rocky islands off the ancient shore, about whose bases the sands and sediments accumulated, as they did over the bottom of the surrounding ocean. The breakers, dashing against the rocky cliffs, threw down masses of rock, which imbedded themselves in the sands, or were rolled and rounded on the beach, and at length were buried, in either case, to tell their own history, when they should be again disclosed by the ceaseless gnawings of the very elements that had buried them. In addition to the accumulations of wash and wear that have previously been the main agents of rock formations, abundant life now swarms in the ocean, and the sands become the great cemetery of its dead. Though the con-

tribution of each little being was small, the myriad millions the waters brought forth, yielded by their remains, a large contribution to the accumulating sediments. Among plants there were sea-weeds, and among animals, protozoans, radiates, mollusks and articulates, all the subkingdoms except the vertebrates. Among these, the most remarkable, both in nature and number, were the trilobites, who have left their casts in countless multitudes in certain localities. The result of the action of these several agencies was the formation of extensive beds of sandstone, with interstratified layers of limestone and shale. These surrounded the Archæan nucleus on all sides, and reposed on its flanks. On the Lake Superior margin, the sea acted on the copper and iron-bearing series, which are highly ferruginous, and the result was the red Lake Superior sandstone. On the opposite side of the island, the wave-action was mainly upon quartzites, porphyries and granites and resulted in light-colored sandstones. The former is confined to the immediate vicinity of Lake Superior; the latter occupies a broad, irregular belt bordering on the Archæan area on the south, and, being widest in the central part of the State, is often likened to a rude crescent. The form and position of the area will be best apprehended by referring to the accompanying map. It will be understood from the foregoing description, that the strata of this formation lies in a nearly horizontal position, and repose unconformably upon the worn surface of the crystalline rocks. The close of this period was not marked by any great upheaval; there was no crumpling or metamorphism of the strata, and they have remained to the present day very much the same as they were originally deposited, save a slight arching upward in the central portion of the State. The beds have been somewhat compacted by the pressure of superincumbent strata and solidified by the cementing action of calcareous and ferruginous waters, and by their own coherence, but the original character of the formation, as a great sand-bed, has not been obliterated. It still bears the ripple-marks, cross-lamination, worm-burrows, and similar markings that characterize a sandy beach. Its thickness, is very irregular, owing to the unevenness of its Archæan bottom, and may be said to range from 1,000 feet downward. The strata slope gently away from the Archæan core of the State and underlie all the later formations, and may be reached at any point in southern Wisconsin by penetrating to a sufficient depth, which can be calculated with an approximate correctness. As it is a water-bearing formation, and the source of fine artesian wells, this is a fact of much importance. The interbedded layers of limestone and shale, by supplying impervious strata, very much enhance its value as a source of fountains.

II. Lower Magnesian Limestone.

During the previous period, the accumulation of sandstone gave place for a time to the formation of limestone, and afterward the deposit of sandstone was resumed. At its close, without any very remarked disturbance of existing conditions, the formation of limestone was resumed, and progressed with little interruption till a thickness ranging from fifty to 250 feet was attained. This variation is due mainly to irregularities of the upper surface of the formation, which is undulating, and in some localities may appropriately be termed billowy, the surface rising and falling 100 feet in in some cases, within a short distance. This, and the preceding similar deposit, have been spoken of as limestone simply, but they are really dolomites, or magnesian limestones, since they contain a large proportion of carbonate of magnesia. This rock also contains a notable quantity of silicia, which occurs dissseminated through the mass of rock; or, variously, as nodules or masses of chert; as crystals of quartz, filling or lining drusy cavities, forming beautiful miniature grottoes; as the nucleus of oolitic concretions, or as sand. Some argillaceous matter also enters into its composition, and small quantities of the ores of iron, lead

and copper, are sometimes found, but they give little promise of value. The evidences of life are very scanty. Some sea-weeds, a few mollusks, and an occasional indication of other forms of life, embrace the known list, except at a few favored localities where a somewhat ampler fauna is found. But it is not, therefore, safe to assume the absence of life in the depositing seas, for it is certain that most limestone has originated from the remains of animals and plants that secrete calcareous material, and it is most consistent to believe that such was the case in the present instance, and that the distinct traces of life were mostly obliterated. This formation occupies an irregular belt skirting the potsdam area. It was, doubtless, originally a somewhat uniform band swinging around the nucleus of the state already formed, but it has since been eroded by streams to its present jagged outline.

III—St. Peter's Sandstone.

At the close of this sandstone-making period there appears to have been an interval of which we have no record, and the next chapter of the history introduces us to another era of sand accumulation. The work began by the leveling up of the inequalities of the surface of the lower magnesian limestone, and it ceased before that was entirely accomplished in all parts of the State, for a few prominences were left projecting through the sand deposits. The material laid down consisted of a silicious sand, of uniform, well-rounded—doubtless well-rolled—grains. This was evidently deposited horizontally upon the uneven limestone surface, and so rests in a sense unconformably upon it. Where the sandstone abuts against the sides of the limestone prominences, it is mingled with material derived by wave action from them, which tells the story of its formation. But aside from these and other exceptional impurities, the formation is a very pure sandstone, and is used for glass manufacture. At most points the sandstone has never become firmly cemented and readily crumbles, so that it is used for mortar, the simple handling with pick and shovel being sufficient to reduce it to a sand. Owing to the unevenness of its bottom, it varies greatly in thickness, the greatest yet observed being 212 feet, but the average is less than 100 feet. Until recently, no organic remains had ever been found in it, and the traces now collected are very meagre indeed, but they are sufficient to show the existence of marine life, and demonstrate that it is an oceanic deposit. The rarity of fossils is to be attributed to the porous nature of the rock, which is unfavorable to their preservation. This porosity, however, subserves a very useful purpose, as it renders this pre-eminently a water-bearing horizon, and supplies some of the finest artesian fountains in the State, and is competent to furnish many more. It occupies but a narrow area at the surface, fringing that of the lower magnesian limestone on the south. See map.

IV—Trenton Limestone.

A slight charge in the oceanic conditions caused a return to limestone formation, accompanied with the deposit of considerable clayey material, which formed shale. The origin of the limestone is made evident by a close examination of it, which shows it to be full of fragments of shells, corals, and other organic remains, or the impressions they have left. Countless numbers of the lower forms of life flourished in the seas, and left their remains to be comminuted and consolidated into limestone. A part of the time the accumulation of clayey matter predominated, and so layers of shale alternate with the limestone beds, and shaly leaves and partings occur in the limestone layers. Unlike the calcareous strata above and below, a portion of these are true limestone, containing but a very small proportion of magnesia. A sufficient amount of carbonaceous matter is present in some layers to cause them to burn readily. This formation is quite highly metalliferous in certain portions of the lead region, containing zinc especially, and considerable lead,

with less quantities of other metals. The formation abounds in fossils, many of them well preserved, and, from their great antiquity, they possess uncommon interest. All the animal sub-kingdoms, except vertebrates, are represented. The surface area of this rock borders the St. Peter's sandstone, but, to avoid too great complexity on the map, it is not distinguished from the next formation to which it is closely allied. Its thickness reaches 120 feet.

AN EARLY DEED FOR VERNON COUNTY REAL ESTATE.

This Indenture, made this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, between Samuel Read, of the county of Crawford and territory of Wisconsin, of the first part and John McCulloch, of the county and territory aforesaid, of the second part, witnesseth, that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of thirty dollars to me in hand paid, by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have remised, released, sold, conveyed and quit-claimed and by these presents do remise, release, sell, convey and quit-claim, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, all the following described lot or parcel of land, situate, being and lying in the county of Crawford, and known and designated as follows: Twenty-four acres of (off) the west side of the the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section number thirty-six, in township number twelve north, of range number five west of the fourth principal meridian. To have and to hold the same, together with all and singular, the appurtenances and privileges thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, interest and claim whatsoever of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, in and to the above described premises to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said party of the first part for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that he will warrant and forever defend the aforesaid premises to be free and clear of all claim or claims of all and every person or persons claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, by, through, or under him, and none other.

In witness whereof, the said party of the first part have hereunto set his hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

DANIEL READ.

Sealed and delivered in presence of
THOMAS J. DEFREES,
HIRAM G. RICE.

TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN, CRAWFORD COUNTY. } ss.

I, Thomas J. DeFrees, a justice of the peace of said county, do certify that Daniel Read, whose signature appears to the foregoing deed, and who is personally known to me to be the person described in and who executed the same and acknowledged that he executed the said conveyance, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Given under my hand [and] seal, this seventeenth day of May, 1848.

THOMAS J. DEFREES,
Justice of the Peace.

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS,
CRAWFORD COUNTY, WIS.
March 1st, 1850.

I hereby certify that the within deed of conveyance, from Daniel Read to John McCulloch, was this day produced to me, in my office, at 12 o'clock noon, and there upon duly recorded in Book F of Deeds, [on] pages 408, 409.

THOMAS BUGBEE.
Reg's of Deeds, C. C. Wis.

AN INDIAN SCARE.

In 1846 the citizens living contiguous to the Wisconsin river were treated to a genuine "Indian scare," and, as the Winnebagoes were the

supposed enemies, an account in this history is properly given of the event.

In the winter of 1844–5, and while the Legislature of the State was in session at Madison, the capital, a rumor that an Indian war had broken out, came to the ears of the legislators with a thousand fearful forebodings, and producing intense excitement. At this time the militia laws had all been repealed, probably with a view to counteract the supposed influence of Gov. Doty, and the capital he might have made by the organization of the militia, and the appointment of the officers from among his friends, the majority of the Legislature being opposed to Doty. At this juncture, however a change in the administration of the general government had changed governors, and Gen. Dodge was again at the helm of the territory. But the law which abolished the militia service with a view to hamper and trammel Doty, was now, in a time of need, found to trammel and hamper Dodge, for though great fear was excited, that plunder and murder would be, or were actually being committed by the Indians, the governor's hands were tied by the law, which he had himself approved. The representations of the Indian disturbances made to the governor he communicated to the Assembly.

The emergency of the case was such as to call the two Houses together at an evening session, to receive the governor's message on the subject, and to devise ways and means for the public defense. And while one was looking at another, at a loss to know what to do, a member penned and offered a bill to repeal the act by which the militia organization had been abolished, and to restore the former laws upon the subject. In offering the bill which contained only a few lines, he moved a suspension of the rules, so that the bill passed at once, and was sent to the council; and, by the same process, it was passed there, and in about half an hour from the time it was first offered, the governor had approved of it, and the whole militia of the territory was organized, officers and all, and measures were said to be taking to call out a portion of it, to chastise the supposed marauders, when a second communication to the governor showed that there was no occasion for it. The first report had grown out of exaggerated statements of some white hunters, who had come in contact with some Indians in the same pursuit, and who probably took some game which the whites would have been glad to have taken; and possibly some pigs had been taken on the credit of the Indians, but this was never proven against them.

By reference to the Legislative journals, it appears that this matter happened on the last evening of Feb. 3, 1846. The governor communicated the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Muscoda, on the Wisconsin river, in Grant county, dated Sunday night, Feb. 1, 1846, stating as follows: "The citizens of this prairie and surrounding country, having been for the last several months annoyed and harrassed by the depredations of the Winnebago Indians, and submitted to their bullying and insults, have at length been forced to the *dernier* resort; to take up arms for our protection. This evening a skirmish took place between the Indians and the citizens, in which four of the former were severely, if not mortally wounded; and from the known character of the Indians, we may naturally expect more serious consequences to ensue. A true and correct statement of the occurrences of the day is substantially as follows: A number of the Indians came down the north side of the Wisconsin river to Capt. Smith's, and stole his canoe. He discovered them and called to them to bring it back, which they refused to do. The captain, with several other men, came over to this shore, found the Indians who took his boat and chastised one or two of them with a stick, and in the melee one of his men was severely hurt with a club in the hands of one of the Indians. The Indians then ran, and the citizens, a number of whom had by this time collected, followed

them a little way and returned. In a short time the Indians came back also. All the citizens having by this time assembled, Capt. James B. Estes and Booth advanced towards them, unarmed, and in a peaceable manner, making friendly manifestations, all of which time the Indians threatened, by drawing their knives, throwing off their blankets, waving their guns in the air, and pointing them toward the whites. Finding it impossible to pacify or appease them, they separated, and in a moment they fired upon the citizens; the next minute their fire was returned, and four of them fell." They then add, that the Indians have sent their runners to collect their scattered bands, and the whites have sent for aid; that they want the governor's assistance, and are determined to kill or drive every Indian on the Wisconsin over the Mississippi; have upwards of forty men under arms, and have chosen James B. Estes for captain.

Gov. Dodge recommended the adoption of a memorial to the secretary of war, asking for a corps of dragoons to protect the frontier settlements. "In the course of half an hour," says the Madison *Argus* of that period, "resolutions were adopted to that effect, and the militia law of the territory revived;" and on the adjournment of the Legislature, the governor set out immediately for the scene of disturbance, but the excitement had died away and no more trouble was apprehended.

TOWN OF BAD AX, 1849.

Aggregate valuation of the taxable real and personal property in the town of Bad Ax in November, 1849:

(1)	Valuation of lands, including improvements	$17,451
(2)	Valuation of personal property	6,135
	Total	$23,586

1850.

Assessed valuation of real and personal estate $30,320

EXTRACTS FROM THE "RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD."

At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners for the county of Crawford, W. T., held pursuant to law on the 3d day of April, 1843, present: David Clark, Jr., Samuel Gilbert, I. P. Perret Gentil; the board proceeded to set off and divide and name the different precincts in the county of Crawford, viz.: No. 1. First precinct to be called the "The Prairie du Chien precinct," bounded as follows: On the south and east by the boundaries of said county of Crawford; on the west by the Mississippi river, and on the north by a line drawn due east from the mouth of Coon river, so called; and the following named persons are hereby appointed judges of election: Stephen G. Tainter, H. L. Dousman and Daniel G. Fenton. * * * * (An assessment district was included in the same boundaries.)

The clerk of the board laid before the said board his certificate, stating therein the compensation to which the judges and clerks of election are entitled for their services at the annual election held Sept. 7, 1846, which was allowed, and the following orders issued in numerical order for the same, to wit: Mt. Sterling precinct (No. 2): William T. Sterling, $2; S. G. Rice, $2; E. Tainter, $2; John McCulloch, $2; Lewis Sterling (mileage), $4.60.

The board on the 1st day of January, 1847, proceeded to select from the poll book the following named persons (from what is now Vernon county) to serve, along with others, as grand and pettit jurors, for the year 1847: grand jurors, Hiram G. Rice, Lewis Sterling, Ezekiel Tainter; pettit jurors, Henry Seifert, John Miller, George P. Taylor and Lee Grant Sterling.

The statement of the clerk of the board of supervisors of Crawford county, showing the compensation to which the judges and clerk of the election in the Mt. Sterling precient (No. 2) are entitled for their services at the annual election held on the first Monday (the 6th day) of September, 1847, which was allowed and orders issued for the same, as follows: W. T. Sterling, judge, one day, $2; S. G. Rice, judge, one day, $2; Ezekiel Tainter,

judge, one day, $2; Orrin Wisel, clerk, one day, $2; John McCulloch clerk, one day, $2, and forty miles travel (by said McCulloch) in making returns, $4.

The following petition signed by twenty-three citizens, was presented to the board of commissioners of Crawford county, on the 4th day of October, 1847: "We, the undersigned, citizens of Crawford county, respectfully ask for an order authorizing the location of a county road beginning at Winochick (Winneshiek, now De Soto) on the Mississippi, and intersecting the Black river road at or near John McCulloch's. We further ask that S. G. Rice, Lewis Sterling and George Nichols be appointed viewers to locate said road; and the petitioners further state that they will be at all expense in locating and building said road. (Petitioners' names not given).

Said petition, after due consideration, granted by the board and ordered by said board that the said S. G. Rice, Lewis Sterling and George Nichols be and hereby are appointed viewers to view and establish said road agreeable to said petition; and it is further ordered by said board that said viewers report their proceedings to the next regular session of said board, to be held on the first Monday in January, 1848.

At a session of the board of county commissioners for Crawford Co., Wis., begun and held at the office of the clerk of said board on the 9th day of January, 1849, in pursuance of law, Thomas J. De Frees and Jacob Spaulding appeared and filed their certificates and oath of office as county commissioners of said county; and the board proceeded to elect their chairman; and, on examining the votes, Jacob Spaulding was found duly elected.

The board then proceeded to divide the county into four towns; and the following is the description of said towns, to-wit:

Prairie du Chien (town No. 1) comprises that part of the county lying south of the line between townships number 9 and 10 north.

Bad Ax (town No. 2) comprises that portion of the county lying north of township number 9, and south of the line between townships number 16 and 17 north, including not only the whole of what is now Vernon county, but parts of the present counties of La Crosse and Crawford.

Albion (town No. 3) comprises that part of the county lying north of the line between townships number 16 and 17 north, and south of the line between townships 22 and 23 north.

Pine Valley (town No. 4) comprises all of the county north of township 22.

The board then proceeded to designate the places in said towns, at which the first town meetings shall be held to-wit:

Prairie du Chien (town No. 1) at the court house in the village of St. Firiole.

Bad Ax (town No. 2) at the residence of Hiram G. Rice.

Albion (town No. 3) at the residence of Jacob Spaulding, at Rock River Falls.

Pine Valley (town No. 4) at the residence of James O'Neill.

EARLY ROADS IN VERNON COUNTY.

At the date of creating, in Crawford county, the town of Bad Ax, Jan. 9, 1849, which included not only the whole of Vernon county, as at present constituted, but part of what is now La Crosse county on the north, and part of the present Crawford county on the south there were in that town the following laid out roads within what is now Vernon county:

(1). A road leading north from W. T. Sterling's residence, by the home of S. G. Rice, on through where Viroqua is now located, until the north line of the town was reached.

(2). A road leading from Warner's Landing on the Mississippi, through Springville, where it branched; one leading to Thomas J. De Frees' and the other northeast.

(3). A road leading from Winneshiek, De Soto, to McCulloch's and Rice's, now Liberty Pole.

(4). A road leading from what is now Liberty Pole, in southeasterly direction to Reed's mill on the Kickapoo.

AGRICULTURE IN THE VERNON COUNTY REGION.
[By Alfred Brunson, 1851.]

The general formation of the country is hilly. Some portions of our original county, (including what is now Crawford, Vernon, La Crosse etc.,) is level, but more of it undulating. The level portions of it are at the heads of the largest streams, where it is apt to be swampy and marshy. Near the Mississippi the hills, or bluffs, rise in some places 500 feet above the river; but as you ascend the streams the hills lessen down to a gentle undulation on the small streams, and to a level or marsh and swamp on the larger ones. In the present limits of the county the land is generally hilly or rolling. The level or marshy portions are on the margins or bottoms of the great rivers. The whole of the original, as well as the present county, abounds in streams of pure water, and abundance of water power. The purity of the waters in the smaller streams and lakes—those that are fed entirely from springs—may be judged of from the fact that they abound with speckled trout. But those larger streams, which rise in swamps and marshes, many of them being tamerack swamps, show the effects thereof in the highly colored state of the water.

The prairie region extends from the Wisconsin, north, by a width of from thirty to fifty miles from the Mississippi, to within ten miles of Lake Superior at its western extremity, with sufficient timber for farming purposes the most of the way. Between the Black and Chippewa rivers, on the present mail route, the timber is too scarce to encourage a general settlement; but along the river hills, and also east of the mail route, timber is more abundant. East of the Kickapoo, and on the head waters of the St. Croix, Chippewa and Black rivers, and on the western branches of the Wisconsin, all within the original county of Crawford, there is no lack of timber; indeed it is generally a dense forest of Pine, mixed with hard wood. Within the present limits of the county, except a dense forest on the east side of the Kickapoo, the county is divided between prairie and timber, and open woodland, so that no portion of it can suffer for want of timber; and except along the precipitous bluffs of the river, there is but little waste land. It can mostly be ploughed, grazed, or kept for timber; and is not more uneven than some of the best cultivated portions of western Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio, along the Ohio river.

The general character of the soil is good; within the present limits of Crawford county, in Bad Ax, La Crosse, the western portions of Chippewa, and southern parts of St. Croix, it may be considered as first rate. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how it can be improved. Further east and north, when you reach the pine region, the soil becomes of less value, except in places where the pine does not grow.

The soil in that portion of the country first named is mostly a vegetable mould, formed from the decay of vegetable matter, or its ashes, when burnt over. It is mixed with sand sufficient to give it warmth; and this seems to increase as we go north, showing that nature, or nature's God has provided against the vicissitudes of the climate. The poorer soils spoken of are, in the pines too sandy, and in the marshes too wet, and in a few instances a cold clay.

Of the crops and the general yield, it would be difficult for me to speak, because I have not sufficient data. Much depends on the mode of cultivation and the season; 50, 40, 30 and 20 bushels of wheat to an acre have been raised. So far as I know, 30 of wheat, 50 of corn and oats, and from 100 to 200 bushels of potatoes, are considered an average crop.

In the cranberry marshes, which are found at the head of the larger streams, the crops in good seasons are said to average several hundred bushels per acre.

Of the manner of cultivation, and of its defects, I can say but little. The old French settlers, when the Americans first came among

them, wrought things as their fathers did 200 years before.

To yoke oxen, they tied a pole across the backs of their horns. They had no wagons, and their one-horse carts were without tires, boxes or skeins on the axles. They usually put in only spring crops. Their wheat, oats, barley and peas were sown on the ground with no other preparation than burning off the weeds, stubble and grass of the last years growth, and plowed in—the ploughing being usually in the same direction—no crossing and no manuring.

The ground cultivated was in a narrow strip at the foot of the bluffs, where was the best soil, say from forty to eighty rods wide, and enclosed in one common field from five to seven miles long, having but one fence on the west side and across each end, the bluffs on the east answering for a fence on that side. The corn planted was of the early Indian variety, which ripens in the early part of September, yielding from thirty to fifty bushels per acre, according to the mode of cultivation. The wheat, oats, barley and peas being harvested in August, and the corn in September; the field was usually thrown open in October, as soon as the potatoes were gathered, as common pasture. If wood was scarce in the ensuing winter, or before the ice became good for procuring it from the islands and bottom lands of the river, most likely the fence would be used in their stores, being dry, and the place of the rails would be supplied before spring by new and green ones. These annual changes of the rails rendered it of little consequence whether they were made of oak, ash, maple or willow, the three latter being usually the easiest obtained, composed the most of the fencing material of the farms.

The grain cradle was not known here until the arrival of Americans, the scythe and sickle being the only instruments used for that purpose. The French bind their grain with willow withs to this day. In other respects, they have availed themselves of the improvements introduced by the American immigrants, and some of them are now among our best farmers.

Most of the new inventions for ploughs, harvesters and threshing machines are now in use.

The markets are good, and also the facilities for reaching them. From the earliest settlement of the country the military and Indian departments, including the fur trade, always furnished a good market for our surplus produce until a short time since, when the amount produced has been greater than the demand from that source. To supply the deficiency, the lumber trade since 1838 has kept the demand more than equal to the supply; add to this the demand growing out of the immigration, so that hitherto the demand for every thing, except wheat, in the two last years, has much more than equalled the home supply. And our prospects for a market are good for a long time to come in our own country, and nearly at our own doors. The lumber trade; the Indian trade and annuties; the military posts at the north and west of us, together with the continued tide of emigration; to which may also be added the mining interests; all together bid fair to consume the most of our surplus produce, except, perhaps, wheat.

Within two or three years past, the produce of wheat has been larger than the demand in the country. But the facilities for transportation by steamboat on the Mississippi has supplied us with a market in St. Louis. Our merchants purchased the wheat, cleaned it thoroughly, had sacks made of coarse domestic cotton, holding over a bushel each, and sent it to St. Louis, where its superior quality and clean state commanded the highest price, making it profitable for both the producer and the merchant.

The opening of the navigation of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, already gives us a choice of markets, between St. Louis and the lakes, for all we have to spare over and above the up river and home demand. And if, as is expected, the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad should

reach the river, we should have an additional facility for reaching an eastern market. Nor will it make much difference, if any, whether the road reaches that river at this point or not, so far as the surrounding country is concerned. The road must reach the river somewhere, but if not, some other one will, within a short distance, by steam; so that before one surplus produce gluts the market on this great river, we shall have the double facility of steamboat and railroad whereby to reach an eastern market, and that too at but a trifling expense. As it is well known that the average of our crops exceed that of the eastern part of our State, after deducting the expense of reaching the lake, we shall have equal, if not greater profit per acre than will our more eastern neighbors.

Our stock is that which is most common to the country. We have no animals of special note, unless it is the pony breed of horse; and not many of them. Our early French settlers came to the country by water, and in bark canoes or Mackinaw boats, and could not bring with them the real Canadian or Norman horse. Indeed I do not remember of seeing one of that breed in this country. If there is one or more, they must have come by land from some States bordering on lower Canada. The original stock of horses here probably came from the south and west, and were from the stock introduced by the Spanish into Mexico, Santa Fe, etc., and from thence spread among the Indians. Carver mentions an expedition of the Winnebagoes towards Santa Fe, and the capture of eighty horses at one time, which they brought home with them. The French settlers here may have obtained horses from their brethren at Kaskaskia, or in Missouri. But in either case they were originally obtained, most probably, from the Indians to the south and west of them.

The present breed of horses or ponies are not generally of an extraordinary character. Only a few very great travelers have been found among them. I have, however, seen one of but moderate size, which is said to have traveled before a light train on the ice, from Mount Trempeleau to this place, 120 miles, between sunrise and sundown, in February, and that without any visible injury. But whether any of such bottom can be now obtained, I am unable to state. Our stock of horses has greatly improved of late from immigration.

The horned cattle in this country originally came from the States of Illinois and Missouri, and were not of the first quality. Some few of a good quality were obtained from the droves brought up, but generally they were of the ordinary character. Immigration has lately brought some of good quality among us, but I know of none of the imported breeds of the day, though, no doubt, we have some of mixed bloods, which are quite valuable.

Sheep have done remarkably well, so far as they have been tried; they are very hardy, and produce good and heavy fleeces. To show their hardiness and the adaptation of the climate to their growth, I will give the following fact: In 1837 a drove of sheep was brought to this place for slaughter. One of them, a wether, strayed from the flock and took up its abode in the hills east of this prairie, and within three fourths of a mile of my house and strange to tell, but nevertheless true, he escaped notice of men, dogs and wolves, through two winters, and was discovered and killed in the spring of 1839, in good eating order. His hoofs were so worn by traveling over the rocks, that they were but square stubbs. We know that he must have strayed from the said flock, because there had been at that time no other such drove on the prairie, from which he could have strayed. At this time there are a few small flocks of sheep which do exceeding well, and show, most conclusively, that our hilly and healthy country is well adapted to raising them on a large scale. I have never heard of any disease among them.

As for hogs, we have some Berkshires, but they have become so mixed and crossed with

other kinds, that but few of them can be distinguished. Poultry of all kinds do well.

The adaptation of the country to grazing, as compared with tillage, is a question I am not as well prepared to decide as are those of more experience. A few facts, however, may serve to show the grazing qualities of the country. The French here who usually own large droves of horses, seldom, and some of them never, feed them in winter, except such as they use; and, in the spring, they are in tolerable order. In our low bottoms and ravines where the wild grasses grow high and rank, they are sometimes beaten down by the fall rains and snow; in which case the snow usually covers a large quantity of green substance which the horses reach by pawing away the snow, if snow there is. If the grass is not beaten down by the snow, but stands up and reaches above it then they eat off the tops. And what is remarkable in this country, this dry grass, reaching above the snow, is eaten with avidity by the horses; and from the fact that they keep in good order on it, it must have considerable nutrition in it, even in that dead and dry condition.

There are, however, other means of grazing in the country. On some of the islands and river bottoms, there are not only thickets of underbrush on which the animals browse, but rushes abound in many places on which horses and cattle will even thrive through the winter. These rush beds are not very numerous; they abound most in the thick timbered regions where the wild grass is thin, or does not grow at all. In the winter of 1842—3, when, the hay failed at the falls of the Chippewa, the cattle not wanted for immediate use were driven to, and watched in the rush bottoms.

In the same winter a party of us voyaging with horses through to Lake Superior and back, our hay and oats having failed, we were obliged to resort to the rushes, on which our horses subsisted three days before we reached the settlement.

The quality of our prairie hay is said to be better than the same article further south. Those who have lived in the southern parts of Illinois and Missouri say that they can winter cattle easier in this region than in the former places. They think the grass here makes more substantial hay, probably from not being so much drenched in summer by the rains.

But a principal reason why cattle can be easier wintered is the character of our winters. We are not one day in mud and wet snow, nor being drenched with rain, and the next day frozen into icicles. Cattle, under such sudden and repeated changes, cannot do as well as with us, where but few changes occur, probably not more than one or two, and sometimes not one through the whole winter. Dry snow, and dry cold weather, even if somewhat severe, when it comes on gradually and is uniform, does not effect man or beast as does the contrary kind of weather. If it requires much labor to provide a winter's stock of provender, we have good health and physicial strength to perform it, and we are satisfied to work if we have health, rather than get along without it, and shake half the year with the ague and fever. If our cattle cost us more to raise and keep they bring a better price when raised than do those that come up themselves in sickly regions.

As between grazing and tillage I think there is but little to choose if either is to be pursued by itself. But both together is certainly preferable; because the straw and stalks from tillage go far in wintering cattle, which would be a loss if we had no cattle to eat them.

Of dairies we cannot say a great deal, having but few; but we could say much in favor of their establishment. What few dairies we have are on a small scale, but have been and are very profitable, and would, no doubt, be more so on a larger scale. I have already stated the facility we have for raising and wintering cattle;these, of course, are necessary to a dairy, and so far it is an encouragement. The next, and indeed the great question is, as to the market for the products of the dairy and of

this, let facts answer. The most of the cheese consumed in our mines, our pineries and on this entire frontier, is made on the western reserve in Ohio, and transported 2,000 miles by the rivers; and having changed hands several times, each of which must have some profit to pay for freight, storage, commission, etc., the price realized by the producer cannot equal more than half the cost to the consumer. Having lived myself on that reserve, and having some knowledge, by experience, of the cost of clearing land, and getting it into grass, the crops obtained, etc., I am certain that cattle can be raised and kept in this region for one-half the expense necessary to be incurred for the same purpose in that country; and, of course, if the products of the dairy here equal the products there, per head of cattle, and the producer here realizes no more than the producer does there, the business must be much more profitable here than there; but if the producer here realizes double what the producer does there, and that too at one-half the expense for raising and keeping cattle, then the business is proportionately more profitable. The only difference and the only drawback in this country to this business is the difference in the wages of hired help. But the difference in costs and prices in favor of this country will more than balance the difference in wages.

The extent of our horticultural experiments are but limited. That the country is adapted to the growth of fruits is evident from the fact that the wild fruits indigenous to this climate are very abundant; such as crab apple, plums of some dozen or twenty varieties, grapes, cherries, currants, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and several other varieties.

The French who first settled Detroit planted apple trees, pear trees and various other kinds of fruits, and, judging from that fact, I expected to find such trees in abundance in this region. But in this I was disappointed; finding of their planting but a few apple trees and these of an indifferent quality.

About the year 1830 Gen. Street, the Indian agent, brought a lot of apple trees from Kentucky to this place, and set them out on a lot at the north end of this prairie. They have had but little care and are natural fruit, yet they have grown well and are very fruitful when not injured by the frost. In 1838 I procured fifty grafted fruit trees from Kentucky, the nearest place from which I could then procure them. But the distance of transportation and change of climate must have affected them. Furthermore the warmth of the steamboat caused them to bud in the moss in which they were done up so that but four or five of them lived. I have since tried seedlings of this country's growth, and though I have had bad luck, the mice and careless ploughman injuring the trees, yet there are some fine and very promising orchards in the country. What is wanted is a nursery in the country, so that the trees will become acclimated, and there can be no doubt but that apples, pears and plums will do as well as in any country as far north as this.

As for peaches our hopes and prospects are not so flattering. In 1846 I had twenty peach trees, which, in March, showed buds for as many bushels of fruit; but a severe frost in April killed them down to the very roots. A neighbor of mine had beat me, in that he had thirty or forty bushels of the fruit the season before, and had hopes of a hundred at the time but his shared the fate of mine, or nearly so. A few sprouted and made a great effort to live. We could raise peaches here if we could prevent the sap from starting before the late severe frosts in the spring. I do not agree with the theory that hard freezing before the sap has started kills these trees. For forty years I have watched these trees in the west, and I have never been satisfied that either the fruit or the tree has been injured by the frost before the sap starts in the spring. But invariably if the sap has started, and is followed by a black frost, that is, something harder than a mere white frost, the fruit, if not the tree, is killed.

Various remedies have been tried and recommended for this evil—a northern declivity, covering the roots with straw when the ground is frozen, etc. But the best, as I think, is engrafting the peach upon the wild plum. The plum we know seldom fails of bearing fruit on account of frost, because it is late in putting forth its sap; and if the peach top is dependent on the plum root for sap it cannot get it, nor start its buds, until the plum root, according to the law of its nature, gives it. And as that period is so late, the frost usually does not injure the plum, neither can it injure the peach. Another advantage of this mode of grafting is, that the worm has sometimes killed the peach by goring its roots; but that occurrence, as far as I know, never happened to the plum.

The raising of peaches in this climate is a desideratum of which most persons despair. It is laid to the climate; but in this I think they are mistaken. Lower Canada, Vermont, New York, northern Pennsylvania, Ohio and I think Michigan once were favored with abundance of of this delicious fruit. In 1812, when I first emigrated to northern Ohio, those farms which had been long enough cleared to have peaches on them abounded in this fruit, and the trees and fruit continued to grow and do well until about the year 1830, when the late spring frosts began to kill, not merely the fruit, but the trees themselves. And what is singular, the frost took those in the valleys in one year, and those on the hills in another; and so on from one location to another; until, in 1836, when I left that country, there were but few peaches left, and from the newspapers I learn that since then this same cause has worked farther and farther south until fears are entertained of the loss of this fruit as far as Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Now, from all this, the evil appears to be in the changes of the seasons and not in the climate. The climate in the same place must be the same. But seasons have changed and re-changed since the settlement of America and favorable seasons may yet come round to us again in this matter.

FIRST WHITE MEN WHO WERE EVER IN VERNON COUNTY—AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR VOYAGE UP THE MISSISSIPPI.*

We set out from Fort Creve Coeur (on the Illinois river) the 29th of February, 1680, and toward evening, while descending the river Seignelay (Illinois) we met on our way several parties from Illinois returning to their village in their periguas or gondolas loaded with meat. They would have obliged us to return, our two boatmen were strongly influenced, but as they would have had to pass by Fort Creve Coeur, where our Frenchmen would have stopped them, we pursued our way the next day, and my two men afterward confessed the design which they had entertained.

The river Seignelay on which we were sailing, is as deep and broad as the Seine at Paris, and in two or three places widens out to a quarter of a league. It is skirted by hills, whose sides are covered with fine, large trees. Some of these hills are half a league apart, leaving between them a marshy strip, often inundated, especially in the autumn and spring, but producing, nevertheless, very large trees. On ascending these hills you discover prairies further than the eye can reach, studded, at intervals, with groves of tall trees, apparently planted there intentionally. The current of the river is not perceptible, except in time of great rains; it is at all times navigable for large barks about a hundred leagues, from its mouth to the Illinois village, whence its course almost always runs south by west.

On the 7th of March we found, about two leagues from its mouth, a Nation called Tamaroa, or Maroa, composed of 200 families. They would have taken us to their village lying west of the river Colbert, six or seven leagues

* The leader of this party, it will be remembered, was Acau; with him went Father Louis Hennepin, who wrote the account here given. It was first published in 1683.

below the mouth of the river Seignelay; but our two canoemen, in hopes of still greater gain, preferred to pass on, according to the advice I then gave them. These last Indians seeing that we carried iron and arms to their enemies, and unable to overtake us in their periaguas, which are wooden canoes, much heavier than our bark one, which went much faster than their boats, despatched some of their young men after us by land, to pierce us with their arrows at some narrow part of the river, but in vain; for soon discovering the fire made by these warriors at their ambuscade, we promptly crossed the river, gained the other side, and encamped on an island, leaving our canoe loaded and our little dog to wake us, so as to embark more expeditiously, should the Indians attempt to surprise us by swimming across.

Soon after leaving these Indians, we came to the mouth of the river Seignelay, fifty leagues distant from Fort Creve Coeur, and about 100 leagues from the great Illinois village. It lies between 36 deg. and 37 deg. north latitude, and consequently 120 or thirty leagues from the Gulf of Mexico.

In the angle formed on the south by this river, at its mouth, is a flat precipitous rock, about forty feet high, very well suited for building a fort. On the northern side, opposite the rock, and on the west side beyond the river, are fields of black earth, the end of which you can not see, all ready for cultivation, which would be very advantagious for the existence of a colony. The ice which floated down from the north kept us in this place till the 12th of March, whence we continued our route, traversing the river and sounding on all sides to see whether it was navigable. There are, indeed, three islets in the middle, near the mouth of the river Seignelay, which stop the floating wood and trees from the north, and form several large sand-bars, yet the channels are deep enough, and there is sufficient water for barks; large flat-boats can pass there at all times.

. The river Colbert (Mississippi) runs south-southwest, and comes from the north and north-west; it runs between two chains of mountains, very small here, which wind with the river, and in some places are pretty far from the banks, so that between the mountains and the river, there are large prairies, where you often see herds of wild cattle browsing. In other places these eminences leave semi-circular spots covered with grass or wood. Beyond these mountains you discover vast plains, but the more we approach the northern side ascending, the earth did not appear to us so fertile, nor the woods so beautiful as in the Illinois country.

This great river is almost everywhere a short league in width, and in some places, two leagues; it is divided by a number of islands covered with trees, interlaced with so many vines as to be almost impassable. It receives no considerable river on the western side except that of the Olontenta and another, which comes from the west-northwest, seven or eight leagues from the Falls of St. Anthony, of Padua. On the eastern side you meet first an inconsiderable river, and then further on another, called by the Indians Ouisconsin, or Wisconsin, which comes from the east and east-northeast. Sixty leagues up you leave it, and make a portage of half a league to reach the bay of the Puans (Green bay) by another river which, near its source, meanders most curiously. It is almost as broad as the river Seignelay, or Illinois, and empties into the river Colbert, 100 leagues above the river Seignelay.

Twenty-four leagues above, you come to the Black river, called by the Nadouessious (Sioux), or Islati, Chabadeba, or Chabaoudeba, it seems inconsiderable. Thirty leagues higher up, you find the Lake of Tears (Pepin), which we so named because the Indians who had taken us, wishing to kill us, some of them wept the whole night, to induce the others to

consent to our death. This lake which is formed by the river Colbert, is seven leagues long, and about four wide; there is no considerable current in the middle that we could perceive, but only at its entrance and exit. Half a league below the Lake of Tears, on the south side, is Buffalo river, full of turtles. It is so called by the Indians on account of the numbers of buffalo found there. We followed it for ten or twelve leagues; it empties with rapidity into the river Colbert, but as you ascend it, it is always gentle and free from rapids. It is skirted by mountains, far enough off in some places to form prairies. The mouth is wooded on both sides, and is full as wide as that of the Seignelay.

EARLY EXPERIENCE IN THE NORTHWEST.

By Thomas G. Anderson.*

About the beginning of March, 1800, I left Cornwall for Montreal, to join my bourgeois, Robert McKinzie, who, by the by, was bred a tailor, but had made a pile of money by the Indian trade, which as a matter of course enabled him to take rank among the "big wigs" of society. I was nearly a month too early for the canoe start to commence. I had, therefore, in the meantime, to live an idle, lonely life at a boarding house. My boss was, however, fully employed laying in his goods and engaging his men and canoes.

My personal outfit consisted of a corduroy roundabout, pants and vest, four striped cotton shirts, four pair socks, and four "two and a half point blankets" sewed up in canvass, with two pair of blankets to cover me, forming my bed and bedding. A gun, powder-horn and shot-bag filled, fitted me for the hunt; and a traveling basket, containing a boiled ham, some sea biscuit, salt, tea, sugar and pepper, with a tea-pot, a small tin kettle in which to boil tea water, a tin cup for tea drinking, two tin plates, two knives and forks, two iron spoons, and a small canvas tent for fair weather. These articles, with $200 salary, formed the usual outfit and wages for a clerk in the Mississippi Indian trade for the first year. During the long evenings of that youthful period, lots of youngsters sought my acquaintance, but a kind providence kept me from their evil ways.

The 3d of April being now arrived, I was conveyed to Lachine, our starting point from civilization. I took a look at the bark canoe which was to transport me to savage wilds. These canoes are about forty feet long, over five feet wide and three feet deep, and made of the bark taken from the white birch tree, and sewed together with the small roots of the hemlock tree. The strips of bark were cut into the proper shape and stretched upon a strong frame, composed of split cedar, and firmly sewed to it with the hemlock fibres. It is now ready for pitching, or rather, "gumming," which is performed by spreading on the seams a kind of resin prepared from the sap extracted from the pine tree, carefully laid on, and pressed firmly with the thumb. It hardens, and stops every leak.

Next morning at daylight we were prepared to load. The canoe was placed in the water, when four nicely smoothed cedar poles, the length of the canoe, were laid in the bottom, in order that the cargo may bear equal pressure on the frail vessel throughout; and the most weighty packages laid on them to bind and confine them to the shape of the canoe. On these the heavier articles were placed, such as shot, axes, powder; then the dry goods to the brim. Over all was piled a month's provisions for all hands, consisting of pork, peas and sea biscuit, the latter contained in canvas sacks, which, when filled, were five feet long and two feet in diameter.

About 10 o'clock all was ready, and we embarked. On leaving the wharf I was near causing the canoe, now top heavy, to turn over and send all down the Lachine rapids. Wishing to give all the *eclat* on my departure, I fired off my

* A biographical sketch of Mr. Anderson will be found appended to this narrative.

gun, which so surprised and startled all hands, that the canoe was nearly going over, which taught me to confine my rejoicings on future occasions to *terra firma*.

After proceeding a few miles the guide, who is commodore, and is responsible for all during the journey, ordered a halt and all hands to debark. A heavy rapid was before us, which must be surmounted. Among other necessary articles of the outfit was a rope about twenty yards long, one end of which was securely fastened to the prow of the canoe. Two of the men were ordered to strip to their shirts, whose duty it would be to wade to their middles up the rapids, one at the prow, the other at the stern of the canoe, to keep it clear of the rocks. The prowman or guide and steersman, each with a long pole to ward off, while the remaining five men, sometimes in the water, and sometimes on shore, to pull at the rope.

When all was ready the guide directed me to a very narrow path, which led me by the verge of a precipice, from which I had a view of the poor men below struggling against the cold rapids, which for two miles ran at the rate of fifteen or twenty miles an hour. At the end no fire was made to dry the men's clothes and warm their feet; but all was hurry and away to the camping ground, about three miles. The paddling was brisk, the song loud and lively, the water smooth, and the hungry mouths soon reached the end of their first day's journey.

The guide and all hands were very attentive to me, in carrying me in and out of the canoe, setting my tent in order, boiling my kettle, etc. I had nothing to do with the drudgery of cooking. The men's practice in the culinary art was very simple, but good. The tin kettle in which they cooked their food would hold eight or ten gallons. It was hung over the fire nearly full of water, then nine quarts of peas, one quart per man, the daily allowance, were put in; and when they were well bursted, two or three pounds of pork, cut into strips, for seasoning, were added, and all allowed to boil or simmer till daylight, when the cook added four biscuits, broken up, to the mess, and invited all hands to breakfast. The swelling of the peas and biscuit had now filled the kettle to the brim, so thick that a stick would stand upright in it. It looked inviting, and I begged for a plate full of it, and ate little else during the journey. The men now squatted in a circle, the kettle in their midst, and each one plying his wooden spoon or ladle from kettle to mouth, with almost electric speed, soon filled every cavity. Then the pipes were soon brought into full smoke.

Our encampment being at the foot of a small fall or cascade, over which canoes and all had to be transported, the guide would not allow talking; so all was bustle, each man's duty being at every trip to carry two packages of eighty-four pounds each over the portages; and six men to carry the canoe, which counted for one trip for each of them, it remaining for them to carry a package afterwards. All was soon over, the boats re-loaded, when the paddle would again resume its strokes with the merriest songs accompanying its play. I conclude that the breakfast on pea soup, with the condition of the atmosphere, so affected the nasal organs that the men suffered intensely the first few days.

With respect to camping, cooking and scenery, there was little variation during the journey. I may, however, mention the beautiful sheet of water falling about forty or fifty feet into the Ottawa near the present city of that name, where at the time of which I write, seventy years ago, there was not even a shadow of a mansion. This fall was very properly called Le Rideau, for it has the appearance of a beautiful curtain.

At length we reached the Portage de Vause, three miles from Lake Nipissing. At the end of the portage was a log hut, with three or four Canadians; a northwest trading post; the only house or human beings we had seen since leaving Lachine. The people were very kind, giv-

ing me some fish and offering me lodgings for the night; the former I thankfully received, but preferred my tent to the latter. Parts of two days were spent in getting all things over this long portage, while the peas, pork and cakes had been considerably lessened. The second day, however, we crossed the lake and pitched our tents on the French River.

We had mounted seventeen portages, and we had to descend seventeen more to Lake Huron. The poor men were sadly worn out with the roughness of the last carrying place, and the guide considerately brought to an hour earlier than usual to give them a good rest and an opportunity to wash, a business in which they had thus far spent little time and lesser soap. The only time I tried the experiment of carrying packages was at the last long portage, where I got the guide to tie a pair of strings to a bag of biscuits and load me with it; but it swayed about, and being top heavy, I could not walk steady. Before proceeding twenty yards down I came with the bag in the mud. The men ran to unharness me, and laughed to see me enjoy the fun.

The next morning the sun stepped forth, and with our paddles and songs we merrily left the lake behind us. How many days it took to reach Lake Nipissing from Lachine, or from Nipissing to Lake Huron, I know not, neither is it of any importance to past generations; but of this I am sure, that in due time we reached Lake Huron, and the keenness of the air of that broad sheet of pure water was felt night and day; and even at this distant period of seventy years, my probocis takes offense at its sufferings at that time.

After getting over those seventeen portages, and running sundry rapids, at times going at the rate of ten knots an hour, we at length reached the big lake; and again, after paddling and working many days, we landed on Grosse island, within nine miles of Mes-she-mic-ka-nock, the Big Turtle; corrupted into Michilimackinac, and finally into Mackinaw.

The traverse being long and dangerous, it was deemed imprudent to undertake it with our full load; and it being late in the day, the guide concluded to encamp, and have everything ready for an early start in the morning. When the morning came I volunteered to guard the baggage at one end of the portage, enabling all hands to engage in the transportation of the goods and canoes; but here I was too desirous of reaching the end of this long journey, and would not stay. In this I was wrong, for one of the men had to remain in charge of the half loads necessarily left, thereby weakening the carrying force, which might have proved serious had a high wind occurred. However, all was safe over and in store by sunset.

Here, then, I was in Mackinaw, truly a stranger in a strange land. I knew no one, and my only care was to perform such duties as might be allotted to me without a murmur. Mr. McKinzie's two outfits or equipments had arrived from their trading posts. They called to see me, and I was informed by them that the furs they had brought on here were to be packed in a certain way for transportation by canoe to Montreal. At it I went, and before Mr. McKinzie arrived in a light canoe, the forty or fifty packs were pressed, marked and the bills of the contents of each pack all ready. The men complained of being given little time, but Mr. McKinzie was surprised and pleased to find all in readiness for those who wanted to return without delay to Montreal, yet would stay to distribute the goods, which were brought under my supervision, into the three outfits he intended to send to trade with the Mississippi Indians the ensuing winter.

Two of the outfits were assigned to two brothers named Lagortroin, and the third to myself. There was also a lot of old remainders of goods from a retail shop Mr. McKinzie had for long years before kept; these, not suitable for the Indian trade, I was directed to pack up and take to St. Louis and make the most of them. My orders were all verbal. My bour-

geois, laboring men, were gone; my work was (light); but it being too early in the season for me to start, I amused myself profitably in going out daily shooting pigeons for my pot. As my larder had nothing but hulled corn, tallow, and a small quantity of salt pork; this latter was kept as a luxury for rainy days, when the feathered tribe were permitted to rest.

As I had seen my dear mother make croxen-yoles or curly cakes, of which I was very fond, so I thought I would try my hand at it. I accordingly procured two pounds of flour, put it into a wooden bowl, not over scoured, after fish, poured in cold water, not too much, lest I should drown and lose my flour, adding a little salt, and handled it until to fancy it appeared to be first rate dough. My next care was to clean the pot of cobwebs, and put it over the fire with a good lot of tallow, which, by the way, had no small share of musty smell about it; but this, I thought would evaporate by the heat. While this heating process was going on, I busied myself in cutting up my beautiful dough into all kinds of fancy shapes, cats, dogs, snakes, mice, etc. These effigies I now committed to their hot bath; and in a few seconds they were so nicely browned that my mouth fairly watered to overflowing, and I could wait no longer for a taste. I found the fork rather dull, so scooped them out with a wooden ladle. On their touching the cold plates, to my horror, though refined by the action of the fire, the tallow became as hard as a candle. To eat my fine looking cakes was impossible, as they had become hard and tough as sole leather. However, I gave them to the men, who dissolved them in their next choice corn cooking; and thus ended my cake frying for all time to come.

My path to the pigeon ground lay immediately past a notary public's door, and I had noticed sweet faces peering at the nice, handsome young sportsman as he passed daily with his gun. At length I was watched on my return; a young widow lady, standing in the door, as I touched my hat, said: "You appear to be a stranger?" I replied: "Yes; just from Montreal." "Will you walk in and rest yourself?" "No, I thank you, I must give the men their corn." "Whenever," said she, "you feel lonely we shall be glad to see you." I thanked her for her kindness. The notary's hopeful son called upon me and confirmed the invitation.

The next day my best Montrealers saw the light and got an airing, fitted for an afternoon's call. No pains were spared to prove that I was recently from civilized society. At 4 o'clock I was formally introduced by the notary's son to his aged father, ditto mother, his widowed sister, Mrs. La Frambois, his other sisters and Miss Cowan. The *engage* of the latter's father was killed by an Indian, who was taken for his trial to Kingston, on board the schooner Speedy, Capt. Paxton, when she foundered, and all on board were lost, judges, lawyers and all. I, of course, remained to tea, and in the evening a "hop" was gotten up. This kind of fun was kept up almost daily during the remaining ten days of my stay. My canoe was at length ready, and I took a run up for good bye. I did not join in the general boo-hoos, but I felt pretty badly.

I have, perhaps, got ahead of my story, as I ought to have said that, having departed from Mackinaw, I was now on a coasting journey on Lake Michigan, exposed to storms, or calms, or burning suns, and eighty leagues of uninhabited wilderness to travel before I could reach Green Bay, or see any but savage faces. Tenting, sleeping, etc., were the same as on Grand river; certainly the air had improved—whether caused by the wide expanse of water, I cannot positively affirm; but I am of the opinion that the influence of the hulled corn on the human system produced a less repugnant feeling to the nasal organs.

After many days rowing, sailing and stormbound, I landed at Green Bay, where were about a dozen settlers, scattered within the limits of, perhaps, four miles—little farmers, none cultivating more than five acres, their

crops consisting of corn and potatoes. An old man lived here named Langlade, who had, until the Americans got possession of the country, been in the employment of the British government, whose daughter had married a trader named Grignon, from whom had sprung very many branches.

An English gentleman, Jacob Frank, and his nephew, John Lawe, Jews, were extensively embarked in the fur trade here. At this time, and for years after, I became very familiar with them; for, on this occasion, they tendered me much friendly advice how to conduct myself with the Indians, to beware of the cunning deceit, treachery, etc., of the traders, with whom I was about to mix up. This was the first good counsel I had heard on commercial business; and, to this day, it has been of service to me.

Here it became nesessary to engage an interpreter, to perform also the duties of steersman. Only one suitable person could be found, and he must feed with the bourgeois. That was well enough, but he had an overgrown squaw wife, with too papooses not long hatched, and they must join the same mess. In stating to Mr. Frank my awful predicament, he laughed at me and said: "You can't better yourself; besides you will find that, in many cases, two or three incumbrances, or even half a dozen, such as your delicate ideas abhor, luxuriate in the same canoe." I could not help myself, so the next day was fixed for a start.

To-morrow came. I took my breakfast with my friends. I found a nicely fitted place for me, immediately over six kegs of powder, of 300 pounds weight—plenty to end our terrestrial journey by adding a spark. Contrary to a very old custom, and much to the annoyance of the smokers, I absolutely prohibited lighted pipes on the canoe. A nice location was fixed for Mrs. Bartram near her husband, Mons. Bartram, the interpreter. All this added no little incumbrance to the canoe.

We embarked, and away we started for the Portage du Ouisconsin, sixty leagues distant. Proceeding three miles, we came to the beginning of a six mile rapid, the greater part of which Lady Bartram and I had to take dry land to overcome, in order to relieve the canoe of surplus weight, as the men had to wade and carefully avoid the rocks, in dragging the canoe up this toilsome obstruction. The slow process of working up the rapids gave time for splendid fishing sport. Black bass were very abundant, and I caught enough for supper and breakfast for all on board.

Having at length overcome all the rapids, the water being low, the men were well tired, and I said "camp." The tents were soon up, the interpreter having one for himself and family; and the loading of the canoe being refixed, ready for the morning's start. Meanwhile Lady Bartram busied herself in cleaning the fish, at which she appeared perfect—indeed, she might have secured a professorship anywhere for superiority in this line. Well, the fish are at length in the kettle, Lady Bartram fixing all the dishes, plates, etc., I had on the mats in my tent. The fish were presented in a big tin dish, boiling hot—all Lady Bartram's volunteer work, having assumed entire control over the kitchen department.

Now, reader, you may wish for, but you won't get a taste. You may, however, take a peep at our tea party, all squatting flat on the mats; Mr. Anderson, the writer, presiding, with Lady Bartram on the right, Sir Bartram on his left, ready to bring the tea kettle and then Master and Miss Bartram in front, scrambling for the fish eyes in the dish, at which their progenitors exult to witness their activity Mr. Frank had said, "You'll get used to it." But I never will.

Crossing Winnebago lake with difficulty, we pushed on through the Rice lakes. Now we are fairly on Fox river, passing Butte des Morts. Here, many years since, a French Jesuit and his men had been murdered by the Winneba-

goes. Camping and tea-ing with no variety; however, after some days we got used to it.

In due time we reached Portage, Ouisconsin, (Wisconsin) a carrying place of three miles across the Ouisconsin river. All over in two days. This river has a smooth, strong current with many shifting sand banks. On this Portage I first became acquainted with rattle-snakes, and from all I had heard, I was not desirous of getting used to them.

Eighteen hours' travel, sixty leagues, brought us to Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi. Here was a little village of perhaps ten or fifteen houses; and at the distance of three miles were three farmers. Except one framed one the houses were all built of logs, plastered with mud, and covered either with cedar, elm or black ash bark. The people were nearly all lower Canadians, carrying on, with small or large stocks, the Indian trade. Without exception, they were kind and hospitable, and prided themselves on their honesty and punctuality in paying their debts, and keeping their engagements. Very little money was in circulation. There were no lawyers to excite strife. Notwithstanding all this fair appearance, there were those among them, regarded as otherwise honorable, fair and clever, who would defraud and over-reach his neighbor, even to despoiling him of his last copper.

After making the necessary arrangements, I started down the Mississippi for my wiutering ground with the Sauk Indians. On arriving at the place I found a house empty, in which some trader had wintered the year before. Possession, I thought, being nine points in law, I set all hands to making repairs, and stowed my goods into it. The next business was to give a portion of my goods on credit to a people I never before had seen. However, it was the mode of carrying on trade, and I must "get used to it." My house, which was now all right, had four good rooms and two fire-places —one in my room, and one in the rear or kitchen which also warmed Lady Bartram on her east wing, and the shop or store in the west wing. Although neither papered nor carpeted, it was compact, warm and comfortable, in this unchristian country, and uninhabited except by savages.

All being thus fixed I embarked my retail shop goods, under the impression of making a *haul*, with my laces, muslins, satin slippers, etc. One day and a half (probably from about the locality of Quincy) on the swift current of the Mississippi, brought me to the Spanish town of St. Louis. I called on, and obtained leave from the Spanish regal authority, to open shop, hired a house and exposed my precious finery in the dress line. Many called, admired, and would call again; some would go in for fifty or one hundred francs, if I would take *dairy* in pay—which was there understood to include cabbage, turnips and other vegetables, but no silver. We could not dicker, so after many days rent at one shilling and eight cents per day, to pay which made a hole in my stock of muslin, therefore, I must pack up and go. The only money I got or saw was one York shilling, and this from Mrs. Myers, a Jewess, from Montreal, for a ball of cotton wicking.

When I got back to my trading post I found four opposition traders—Monsieurs St. John, Blondeau, Berthelot and Carron. They were all old hands, and viewed me as an intruder, and would spare no pains to ruin the *mangeur de lard*, or pork eater, as those in infancy in the trade were roughly called. But a blessed guardian, who, with shame I say it, I knew not, and he it was who told me that swilling hot stuff and gambling night and day with cards, was not right. I had not seen a book of any kind since I left my dear Cornwall in March.

Lady Bartram had kindly taken control of the cuisine department, and separated me from her own family, for which I rejoiced. I could not, however, get used to the marks left on my floor by the papooses. The long winter, from November until spring, had to be worn out; and I did my share of rambling with my gun, shooting

paroquets, picking and eating pecans, and breaking through the ice with narrow escapes.

My interpreter being an old hand at intrigue and trickery, and naturally suspicious, became aware, by frequently visiting my neighbors, of their vile plots against me, and enabled me to thwart their designs. The Indians returned from their hunt, paid about twenty-five per cent. on their debts, and commenced trade. When this was over, my friends (the traders) sent thirty or forty Indians, half drunk, with a worthless bear skin, and demanded from me a keg of rum—a gallon—therefor; and, on my refusal, they threatened to break the shop door and take it. I stepped into my room, took from under my pillow a brace of brass pistols, and came back to the kitchen, only a minute's walk. I desired the interpreter to say, that the first man who strikes the door will be shot. In the bustle to clear out, the fellows took a loaf from the bake-kettle, and another took a brand from the fire, and stuck it into the straw, with which the building was covered. On hearing of it, I rushed out and fired after them; but they fortunately had made good time, and were out of reach.

The trade being over, I quietly packed my furs, baled my goods, and got ready, without my neighbors knowing my object. By daylight canoes and cargo were at the landing place. While the boats were being loaded Mrs. Bartram prepared breakfast, and I had made up my mind never again to winter near to people worse than savages. I set fire to my house, and embarked, having ordered an extra rowing place, where, if necessary, I could pull an oar, and keep ahead of my friends.

In order to reap the trade from such Indians as usually came from their hunts, and encamped along the river where no trader wintered—with these, the first who came were first served. I had cause to rejoice that my cunning friends did not leave for two days after me; consequently the extra oar was not needed, and my trading friends had to take my leavings with the scattered bands en route for Prairie du Chien.

A few days rest for all hands, and following the fashion I one day got senselessly drunk, which was the first and last time during my Indian trade tours. While at Prairie du Chien I punctually attended all the best nightly balls. We sometimes kept Sunday; but whether on the right day was doubtful. My friends (the traders) at length arrived, who represented me as a fearless and dangerous person to be let loose amongst the Indians—always carrying gun and pistols, and would shoot any one who quarreled with me. This reputation was soon made known far and near—no' a very favorable one under most circumstances. But it had a good effect with that class of traders who would get beastly drunk and fight like dogs at night, and be good friends and love each other in the morning. Though I was far from deserving such a character as they gave me, it preserved me from the gross insults to which the meek and retiring were subject.

After our few day's sojourn, I started for Mackinaw. The journeying seemed to agree with Lady Bartram and family, for they were in as good health on our return to Green Bay as when we departed. Mr. McKinzie had arrived when I reached Mackinaw, and was quite pleased with my returns and doings generally; but as he was about to be married, he gave up the trade, aud pressed me very hard to go back with him, as they were wanting me to fill my old place at Kingston. But my destiny was not so ordered, and I would not be persuaded. The offer was good; but something, I could not tell what, held me back.

At my master's in Kingston I never saw a Bible, nor heard a word about religion, except in Church, and when good old Dr. John Stuart, the former Mohawk missionary attended to prepare me for confirmation—so, I now think, that my blessed guardian influenced my decision. It is true it often occurred to my mind with what devotion my ever dear father and mother read their Bibles on Sundays, and ab-

stained from all week-day employments which were not absolutely necessary. They were now very old, and I would be delighted to see them; but my mind was fixed. There were no pleasures and enjoyments in the society and occupation which lay before me; I cared not for money, nor had I a desire to heap up riches. When my old master, Mr. Markland, wrote to me, while I was spending my last winter in Cornwall, requesting me to go back to him, my reply was, "I am engaged to Mr. McKinzie, and I shall look in future to my gun, knife and tomahawk for a support." This decision influenced me to refuse Mr. McKinzie's offers at Mackinaw to return to Kingston; for, from my boyhood, I felt proud of keeping my word.

I therefore engaged with my friend Mr. Frank, of Green Bay, and went and wintered (1801–1802), on the Riviere des Moines. This river empties into the Mississippi from the west, about forty miles above where I wintered last year.* I ascended the Des Moines about fifty miles, to the Ioway tribe of Indians--a vile set. A Frenchman named Julien † was my only competitor this year for the Indian trade at this point. These Indians hunted near the Missouri, about ninety miles across the country from where we located.

It would have been an easy matter, though somewhat expensive, to have sent goods around by and up the Missouri to the vicinity of the hunting grounds of the Ioways; but to avoid this expense, for which there seemed no necessity, Julien and I agreed that neither would send outfits there, but trust to our own exertions in the spring, when the Indians, we concluded, would bring their furs to our shops. I considered myself quite away from trickery; but as time hung heavily upon me, I wore it away as well as I could by hunting, making oars, paddles and other whittlings, until about Christmas. Then Mons. Julien and his interpreter, had a quarrel; and following the vile conduct of his master in deceit, he told me that Julien had deceived me, having sent goods up the Missouri last fall.

This was a thunder-clap to me. An immediate explanation from Mr. Julien was demanded. I was furious, and showered all the abuse I could muster on his cringing head. My mind as to what was best to do under the circumstances was soon made up. I called my interpreter into council, and said, "Now, boy, you know how Mr. Julien has deceived me; are you willing and ready to carry a load on your back across to the house near the Missouri, which Mr. Julien has treacherously put there, with the intention of stealing all the credits I made to those Indians last fall." All were willing. "Tit for tat" said I; "he wanted to ruin me, I will only injure him. Some of you ask his interpreter to go with us and carry a load." He accepted the invitation. Then my party, including myself, became nine strong.

I left my own interpreter in charge of the Des Moines trading post, and started the next day with seven loaded men, taking provisions for one day only, depending on game for our supply. The little islands of wood scattered over the boundless plains were swarming with wild turkeys, so that we had plenty of poultry. At the end of six days we reached our destination safe and sound, taking Mr. Julien's two *engages* by surprise. My party soon fitted up a temporary shop. Not long after, the Indians came in, made a splendid season's trade, managed for the transportation of my packs of fur by leaving a man to help Mr. Julien's two *engages* down with their boat. Thus I completed my winter, and Mr. Julien found his trickery more costly than he anticipated.

My next winter (1802–1803) was spent with the Winnebagoes, on Rock river. They were the most filthy, most obstinate, and the bravest people of any Indian tribe I have met with.

* This would place the former trading post not very far from the present city of Quincy.

† Doubtless Julien Dubuque.

Here I had a half-breed in opposition in the trade. Our houses were about half a mile apart, and between us was a very high hill, over which we had to pass by a little path through the bushes. On one occasion, returning from my neighbor's, on a very dark night, I lost the path. The hill, I was aware, terminated on my right in a precipice at least 300 feet from the river below, and that the path ran within fifty or sixty feet of the precipice. I was at a loss what to do. If I sat down to await the return of daylight I would surely go to sleep, and in a dream, perhaps, walk to my destruction. So I determined to walk about, feeling carefully with my feet for the path; but, as people generally do when they become confused, I went the wrong way, and soon found by my steps that I was going down hill. I, therefore, lay down on my stomach, to get at the level of the ground, placing my head up hill, intending to work myself along in that way until I could get into a thicket, and there remain until morning. I got on the path, however, before I found a thicket. My house was soon found; and this was my last visit after nightfall. On examining my trail the next morning, I found I had been within six feet of the precipice, which, had I reached it, must have proved fatal to me. I had a good season's trade during this winter of (1802–1803), and had plenty of venison, wild fowls and wild or natives potatoes to eat, but awful human brutes to deal with.

My short sojourn at Prairie des Chiens, the rendezvous of the Mississippi traders, presented but little variation; and our journeying from and to Mackinaw only differed in this respect, that in the summers the rivers were low and sluggish, and, in returning to Mackinaw, we could not make more than from three to ten miles a day in ascending the Ouisconsin.

Having had enough of the Lower Mississippi, I would not try it over again. Min-na-wack (or Mill-wack-ie) was offered to me for a trading post, and I went among the Kickapoos. About a quarter of a mile from the entrance of the river I observed a nice green and level spot. There I landed, and pitched my tent, towards the close of 1803; and, in a short time, we had a three-room house over our heads, no up stairs; but all the timbers above the floor exposed to view. The river here is, perhaps, sixty yards wide. On the opposite side were two traders, Le Claire and La Fromboise, who had been settled there several years, and each had two or three relatives, or other hangers on, which formed quite a society of its kind. I had bought a horse, and considered it my duty to ride over the plains and pick up skins from the scattered Indian camps.

My neighbors had been very kind, and I made up my mind to exercise my best endeavors in the cooking line, and tender them a rare feast on Christmas day, which was now near at hand. On Christmas eve my invitations were extended to my friends. I had secured the fattest raccoon the Indians could tree; and defied any one to procure a fatter one, for there was no lean about it. Towards sunset, I set my cook to chop any quantity of venison for stuffing. My raccoon was unusually large, weighing about thirty-two pounds, requiring a large quantity of stuffing to fill it out plump. In the meantime, I had the pepper in a piece of deer skin, pounding it into pulverized form, cutting up onions, and a little cedar leaves, to give my viand a pleasant taste. No coonship's body, I am sure, was never so cram-full before. About 8 o'clock it was stitched up, and ready for placing on the spit early the next morning. Then where should it be placed for safety during the night to prevent it from freezing? Of course by the fire. I went to bed, and my mind was on the raccoon subject all night. But what was my mortification when I got up at day light to hang my coon up to roast to find it putrid and stinking. Oh, misery! sympathize with me for my lost labor, and with my friends for their lost dinner. I had no cook book. So ended my second attempt at cooking. Of course, I went without

my dinner, and got laughed at by my half-famished friends.

The Indians, Pottawatamies, in this locality, were docile, and easily managed; and doing a fair trade, I remained here three years, frequently going on horse-back to Chicago, a distance of sixty (eighty-five) miles; but the route was a hard-sand beach; and having a fleet pony, and a cool breeze from the lake, the distance was soon overcome without fatigue to my young bones.

During my second year at Min-na-wack, or Mill-wack-ie (1804–1805), Capt. Whistler with his company of American soldiers, came to take possession of Chicago. At this time there were no buildings there except a few dilapidated log huts, covered with bark. Capt. Whistler had selected one of these as temporary, though miserable residence for his family, his officers and men being under canvas. On being informed of his arrival, I felt it my duty to pay my respects to the authority so much required in the country.

On the morrow I mounted Kee-gekah, or Swift-Goer, and the next day I was invited to dine with the captain. On going to the house, the outer door opening into the dining-room, I found the table spread, the family and guests seated, consisting of several ladies, as jolly as kittens. The gents had not yet arrived. I had not been seated ten minutes before the door opened, and in rushed a host of Indian warriors, hideously painted, scantily dressed, ornamented with feathers, bear's claws, deer's horns, snake's rattles, etc., etc. The ladies almost fainting, ran off, leaving the captain and myself to see the end.

The first act of the war chiefs was to walk around the table and pick up the pieces of bread which had been placed, after the old fashion, beside the plate of each guest, which he handed to his young men in attendance. Being acquainted with the chief, and knowing something of the language, I asked him: "What brings you here in this garb? Your great Big Knife father has sent his soldiers here to protect you, and to encourage more traders to come among you; and instead of being thankful, you come to insult them. You had better go to your camp and bring them some venison, and be kind to them." He shook hands with me, and went off with his followers. I have ever considered my having been present on that occasion to have been providential, in saving the lives of this detachment; for, in all probability, had not some one been present acquainted with the Indian character, Capt. Whistler would have called in some of his men to expel the war party, in which case it is easy to imagine what the consequences might have been.

In 1804, while trading with the Pottawatamie Indians at Min-na-wack, or Mill-wack-ie, having no society, and little to do, I was naturally enough very lonely. I, therefore, undertook a journey along the lake shore, to visit my friend, Jacob Frank, at Green Bay. The first day's journey brought me to an encampment of Pottawatamies, at Two Rivers, nearly seventy miles distant, reaching there before night. I put up at the lodge of an old Indian chief, named Na-na-bou-jou, who gave the following account of the origin of his tribe, in answer to my inquiry on the subject:

"I take my name," said he, "from my original ancestors, who were the first living man and woman. They found themselves in a big canoe; all the animals were also in the same canoe, floating on thick water. After a while the ancestors insisted that there must be something much more substantial beneath the water. To test it, they wanted the deer or some other animal, to dive down and ascertain. None would venture on so perilous and uncertain an undertaking. At length a beaver volunteered to make the effort, and jumped overboard, plunging beneath the waters. After a long time he rose to the surface, almost dead, without being able to relate anything satisfactory. But the ancestors still persisted that there must

be a hard substance upon which the waters rested. Finally they persuaded the musk-rat to go on a trip of discovery. He, too, was gone a long time on his sub-watery exploration; but at length he emerged from the flood of waters quite exhausted. The woman ancestor took him up in her arms, and on nursing and drying him to bring him to, found a little clay adhering to one of his fore-paws. This she carefully scraped off, worked it between her thumb and finger, and placed it on the water to see if it would float. It immediately began to increase in size, and in three days it was more than three fathoms broad.

"The wolf now began to grow very troublesome, snarling and growling at all the other animals, so that the woman ancestor scolded him sharply, but to no purpose. At length she got angry and threw him out upon the little island, which was yet too small to bear him up in one position. He, therefore, had to run round and round the edge of the little island, which is the cause of the shores of lakes and rivers being harder than the rest of the land. The island continued to grow, herbs sprang up on it, so that they could send other animals out of the canoe to find a lodgment there.

"The woman ancestor said to her husband: What a pity we have no trees growing on the island, and proposed to paddle around somewhere to find a tree. They soon found a nice little balsam flower, which they brought and planted in the center of the island. It grew in a very short time till it reached the sky. They then observed an object over their heads, moving east and west, day after day. The woman ancestor was quite captivated with it, and she sent her husband up the tree, to set a snare to catch this beautiful object. He went up and found it had the appearance of an old woman. However, he set a snare, and descended. The beautiful object was caught in the net, and there it stuck. The woman ancestor was perfectly outrageous because it was stopped in its course; and scolded her husband for setting the trap. She then desired her husband to ascend the tree, and let the beautiful object go on its course again; but he declined to do so. She then tried to get the deer and other animals to go up, but they could not climb. At last she induced a raccoon to make the effort. The heat was so great when he got near the object, that it scorched him, and he came tumbling down through the branches of the tree. The good woman was now in a greater rage than ever, when she found she could not have her curiosity gratified, and the object loosened from its captivity. After a long time a mole volunteered to go up. All the other animals began to laugh at him for his temerity; but up he went, and when he got near the object, finding it very hot, he managed to burrow along till he reached the snare, and cut the object loose. But in doing so, he scorched his nose, and that is the reason why moles have brown noses and small eyes; and the sun once loosened from its trap has been going ever since."

Such was Na-na-bou-jou's legend. The earlier portion of this Pottawatamie legend evidently refers to the general deluge. Other tribes have also had handed down to them, more or less vaguely, traditions of the deluge. Some of these traditions are related by Schoolcraft in his *History of the Indian Tribes*, Vol. I, p. 17; Vol. VI, pp. 571–72, as preserved variously by the Algonquins, Iroquois, Cherokees, Muscogees and Chickasaws, all agreeing that there was a general cataclism, and that but few persons were saved. The Algonquins, he says, relate, that when the deluge began to submerge the mountains, a benevolent God, called Manabo, ascended a high elevation, climbed a tree, and as the waters rose, he commanded the tree from time to time to grow taller, which obeyed the injunction; when at length he directed successively the loon, the beaver, otter, and mink, to dive down and find bottom; but none of them succeeded. At last he sent the musk-rat; for, said he, your ancestors were always famous for grasping the

muddy bottoms of pools with their claws. The animal succeeded in bringing up a morsel of earth in its claw ; and from this new chaotic mass, the Algic deity re-created the earth.

A recent Des Moines correspondent of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* gave this statement, which embodies the same idea : "Several of the leading men of the Musquakie tribe of Indians, from their reservation in Tama county, were here recently. They were in charge of George Davenport, their agent, who was born among the Indians at Rock Island, and in whom they have great confidence. Mr. Davenport related many incidents in the history of the Sacs and Foxes, who formerly occupied this territory. The Musquakies are the remnants of these tribes. Mr. Davenport says they observe religious rites which closely resemble those of the ancient Hebrews. They have a Bible, of which there are several copies among the tribe, which are ancient, and preserved with great care. Each Bible consists of twenty-seven parts. It is written in characters and signs known only to them. They utter prayers to a Supreme Being in a language entirely different from that in which they converse usually. What it is, Mr. Davenport has never been able to learn, nor has he been able to get a copy of their Bible. They get from their Bible a tradition which corresponds to our accounts of the deluge ; for, one day, when Mr. Davenport was attempting to explain to them the existence of a God, and his relation to man, and also of Noah and the deluge, one of the chiefs replied: 'Ugh ! We know that long time. We was all in canoes tied together. On top heap water. We put down musk-rat, one, two, good many times. He come up. Last time he go down, he come up he bring mud. We know water go down.' Their religious rites are held in secret." After its relation, I closed my eyes in sleep. Next morning at day-break, I journeyed on my snow shoes, cutting across a point of land, and after a hard days tramp, I at length reached my destination.

After my third years' winter at Min-na-wack (1805–1806) and return to Mackinaw, the foreign markets requiring a better quality of peltry, I was solicited to go to the Upper Mississippi to the Sioux country. I wintered (in 1806–1807) on the St. Peter's river, about fifty miles above its mouth. I took up my station in a delightful part of the wood-fringe. Each bank of the river was enriched with a strip of timber, which in some places extended back a mile from the stream. Here the deer, wild fowl, and other game were in abundance ; and as I had dismissed the Indians to their hunting grounds before reaching this spot, I had all the hunting to myself, and had plenty of meat, roasted geese, ducks, prairie hens, etc., but no vegetables. My French Canadian cook would occasionally treat me with a cake, baked in the ashes, from my scanty allowance of flour. As a treat, I would sometimes have venison fried in deer's tallow in the kettle, or in the long frying pan. These steaks I could not eat hot enough to prevent their congealing in their progress to their throat; consequently the roof of my mouth would become so thickly cased over with tallow as to necessitate the use of my knife to remove it. About the beginning of March (1807), the Indians came in from their hunt, encamped around my trading-house and began to pay their debts and trade for the surplus. A crust had formed on the snow, and all the young Indians and boys went off, and, for amusement, wantonly tomahawked every deer they could find, as the poor creatures, breaking through the crust, could not get out of the way. Deprived of venison, the wild fowl came in abundance. I made up my packs, and got ready for a start, trading off the remnant of my goods with scattered bands on my way down to Prairie des Chien.

My returns for the season's trade were good; and I concluded to operate with the Sioux as long as I should remain in the business. The following winter, (1807–1808,) I re-occupied my last year's trading post on the St. Peter's, but

under very different circumstances. The wantons recklessly killing off the deer last March, brought a judgment upon all. There was not a deer to be seen. The winter was a very mild one, and the buffalo did (not) travel so far south as we were—consequently all were without provisions. The nearest tribe of Indians to me were fifty or sixty miles away, on the trail the buffalo usually took in the winter season, and they were in a starving state.

I had consumed every article I had of the eatable kind, including several packs of deer skins. I and my men roamed about in quest of game without success. We set traps of all kinds, in which we occasionally caught wolves, fishers, martens, and minks, all of which went to the pot, and I could take my share of all except of the wolf. My cook said he would dress a piece, and dish it up so I would like it; so he cut off a choice bit from one just brought in and put it into the bake-kettle, seasoning it with pepper, salt and mustard, adding some Stoughton bitters and a glass of high wines to give it the taste of chicken. But with all this knowledge of refined cookery, I could not stomach what tasted to me like a mouse-nest; for when better food cannot be had, the wolves live on mice. The men, however, devoured it as voraciously as cats would their victims.

Foxes were in great abundance, but they were too cunning to be caught in the traps. They would take the bait, and spring and turn over the traps, but were careful to keep their toes out. So I thought I would trick them and show them my cunning. I took six steel traps, and, with the aid of my tomahawk, set them in such a way that they would have to walk over them to get at the bait which I placed in the circle formed by the traps. On visiting my device the next morning, I found one fox had been out-witted. I discovered him, crouched behind a bunch of grass, as if ashamed of having been overreached.

On my way home I met a deer, walking leisurely toward me on the ice; on seeing me, he bolted up the bank, and after a few bounds in the deep snow he stuck fast, and, coming up to him, I soon relieved him from his dilemma by sticking my knife into his vitals.

I left him on the ice with my traps, and, returning to the station, sent a couple of men for them, and great was our rejoicing. But I was saving of the venison; all the inwards were cleaned, and served to give a relish to wolf, or such other meat of the kind as Providence was pleased to throw in our way. Time, under such circumstances, I scarcely need say, hung heavily upon me. March, however, at length came, and my hunting host brought in their rich returns, and the wild fowl were with us again in clouds, and in due time we recovered our lost flesh.

News reached me that the (Indians) who had gone in the fall to winter on the route usually taken by the buffalo, had been starving; many had died from want. In a small lake in their vicinity, it was said, that forty bodies of men, women and children had been found. It appeared that as soon as the ice was out of the lake they waded in, feeling with their feet for turtles and roots for food; but being too weak to return to land, they would fall down in the water, and there remain. Some were found dead on the plains.

My return to Mackinaw was as in former years. The next season [1808–1809], I wintered higher up the the river, at Lac qui Parle. All went well here. I arrived unusually early at my post, so that I went with a party of Indians on a buffalo hunt to the source of the St. Peter's, the Big Stone Lake, perhaps thirty miles in circumference. We went up in canoes; but long before a buffalo could be seen on the plains, my attention was directed to a rumbling noise, like rolling thunder at a distance, which seemingly caused the whole country to quiver and shake; and as we drew nearer, the awful bellowing of 10,000 enraged bulls was truly frightful.

We were now skulking noiselessly along, endeavoring to reach a few acres of wood-land before us. A short distance above this was a bay, which was crowded with buffalo swimming in all directions. As far as the eye could reach, the prairie was black with these animals.

On reaching the woods, I was permitted to raise up a little, and peep into the bush, which was also full of them, and some of them within ten yards of us. But I was forbidden to fire. My guides said, when I got on the hill some fifty yards off where there were no trees then I might go ashore, and kill all I could. How the guide got to his place without disturbing them, I know not, for the little bush was swarming with them; but when I made my appearance, they were so excited, running off towards the plains, and I so astonished, that I could not take aim at any one of them; but I fired into a batch, which were brought to bay for a second by my friend on the hill, who had shot three fat cows in as many minutes.

The squaws now went to their work of cutting up the meat. The hides were not cared for, so they only took the skin off of such parts as they wanted for immediate use, or to slice up and dry or smoke, the only means they had for preserving it even for a few days.

My friend, Wy-o-be-gah, the marksman, invited me to accompany him a couple of miles to a little lake, where he said we would find lots of buffaloes drinking and washing themselves. We did not want meat; but, savage-like, we wanted to kill game. On nearing the lake, we could, as he said, see large numbers of animals drinking and washing. A fringe of strong grass, four feet high, surrounded the water. We approached carefully on all fours; he leading the way in front, reached the grass-fringe, which he divided with his gun, and, at length, made sign for me to look through the opening. Within five yards of us stood a monster bull, which appeared to my astonished eyes twenty feet high. I wanted to shoot him; but Wy-o-be-gah shook his head, at the same time giving an un-buffalo grunt, when the monster animal reared on his hind legs, gave a whirl around, and away he went. Wy-o-be-gah's aim was to kill a cow, but he missed his object, and ran off leaving me to look out for myself, which I did by securing a position behind a large tree, where I intended to attack some lonely passer-by.

I had not remained there long before a big bellower came towards me; but I observed by his line of approach, that he would be too far from the reach of my gun, so I went nearer to where he would pass. Putting two balls in my gun, and hiding in the grass, I waited his coming, for he approached within twenty yards of me. I took deliberate aim at his heart. He stopped, and furtively cast about for his enemy. I wished my tree was nearer, for I was sure he would be after me, and my plan was to get the start of him. I was soon on my legs, and he after me; but I beat him, and got safe to the tree before him. But I was too shaky to load my gun, and he passed on not noticing my dodging behind the tree, and he was soon out of sight.

Returning to camp, a plentiful supply of marrow bones were ready for the hunters. The mode of cooking the marrow is to hold the bones over the fire until they are nicely browned; then break or split them in two with the tomahawk, and dig the marrow out. It is very nice, and does not clog the stomach like other fat, or congeal in the mouth like deer's. In fact, if we had salt, bread, or vegetables of any kind to eat with it, it would have been doubly delicious. All this time I had not killed a single buffalo of the thousands I had seen, and all because I did not know how; while Wy-o-be-gah had killed seven, and all we took away did not amount to the meat of one animal. We returned home the next day.

My principal occupation during the winter, was making oars, paddles, etc., ready for an early spring start. March at length came, and, to my grief, I got word from my hunters that they were not coming to the trading-house; but

would pass about two days' journey to the south, on the route for Santa Fe, to get wild horses, etc. The next morning, my interpreter and four men were on their way to their camp, to collect all they could on account of goods advanced to the hunters on credit the preceding fall. They collected twenty-five per cent. less than was due; but I had a chance of making up the nominal loss by trade with those who did come to my post, and I sent word to the band who had cheated me, that I would not give them any credit next fall.

In the autumn (of 1809), I delayed reaching my wintering grounds, in the Big Stone Lake region, until the middle of November, and suffered much inconvenience in consequence, being obliged to assist the men in breaking the ice in many places, and sometimes to wade up to our middles in water to drag the boat through the ice. We at length, however, reached our old trading-post about 4 o'clock of an afternoon, found fifty or sixty lodges there; and we had just time to stow away my goods in the house, where the men slept. My interpreter, his wife, and I, preferred to spend our nights in my large leathern lodge, or markee, until the necessary repairs should be made in the house for our winter's comfort.

Some of the Indians inquired whether I intended to give them credit as formerly; and I, reminding them of their ill treatment of me in only partially paying their last year's debts, said I should not trust them again. We got our supper as usual; and as was the custom, my lodge was soon filled with Indian visitors, smoking and telling stories. The interpreter and his wife lay down, and I soon followed suit, and hardly closed my eyes when the interpreter spoke to me in a low voice, not calculated to awaken suspicion, saying his wife informed him, that the Indians were talking of killing us, and seizing the goods. I turned over quietly and took a smoke, and intimated to my interpreter to do the same, meanwhile joking with the Indians around us in the lodge about swan shooting, etc. We took down our guns on pretence of getting them ready for the morning's shooting; but, in truth, for our defense, if necessary. I had my tomahawk and knife all ready to kill before being killed.

While the Indians were still smoking their pipes, and I stretched in a sleeping position, a bustle was heard at the door, and in popped a tall, good-looking Indian, painted, feathered, and armed in full war costume. My time has come, I thought; but, being a law-abiding person, it would be wrong in me to break the peace, so I sat on the defensive. But I was soon all right, for my war friend was asked by one of my smoking visitors what was up, that he was thus attired at this late hour? "I am come," he replied, "to die with the white people; if they must be killed, I must first be put out of the way, for they shall not be hurt while I live. You had better go to your lodges, and let this man, who has brought us ammunition, etc., to save our lives, go to his rest. I am going to guard him." They all hurried off. He said to me, "go to sleep," and I did so without delay.

At daylight I was preparing a present for the band, as they could not hunt without ammunition, etc. I put up powder, ball and shot to match, tomahawks, knives, and other needful articles. When I had them all in readiness, I said to the principal men who were seated around: "You cheated me last year in not paying your debts as you promised; and for that reason I will not trust you again; but knowing that you cannot live without my help, take these articles, and divide them among your band. If you have the hearts of men, you will think of me next spring." The whole camp was shortly moving, and I got my gun, and was just starting for shooting swan, which were flying over in large flocks; and while emerging from the door of my lodge, I met my guardian, who asked me where I was going. When I informed him, he bade me go back, and stay there until he should ascertain that it was safe for me to expose myself. Now, for the

first time, I really felt that my life was in danger, and had only escaped the assassin by God's good providence in sending this man to save me. Not here and there individuals, but the entire band became my deadly foes because I would not give them my goods on credit, as all former traders had done.

This man, who had so opportunely come to my relief, was of course my guest for the time being. The next morning, about 10 o'clock, he had walked quite a circuit around my house, examining for tracks, in case there should be any one of the band lurking about for mischief; but finding all safe, he told me I could go and shoot swan. I had never seen this man before; and, on inquiry, my interpreter informed me that he was a half breed, the son of a gentleman from Montreal, who had been in the trade many years before, named Ance, and had retired. I went to my shop, opened some packages and gave him a present, of which he was proud, and was as heavy as he could conveniently carry. I never saw him again. This proved to be the hardest winter I ever met with in my journey through life.

Old Wack-haw-en-du-tah, or Red Thunder, was one of the bravest and most universally respected chiefs among all the numerous Sioux bands. What brought him into such high esteem may be worth noting. An Ottawa Indian, from Lake Michigan, had by some means wandered away from his own country and joined Red Thunder's band, where he received the kindest hospitality; but his tribe, in Michigan, were at war with the O-ma-haw Indians, on the Missouri. In their rambling or pleasure seeking during the summer season, though their homes might be widely separated, strange tribes would often come in contact, and have great fun, horse-racing, ball-playing and very many other means of amusement, with which the whites are not familiar.

On the occasion in question, about 200 lodges each of Sioux and O-ma-haws encamped on the great plains within visiting distance of each other. This happened many years before I saw Red Thunder. It soon became known in the O-ma-haw camp that Red Thunder was harboring one of their enemies, and a party was immediately sent to bring the Ottawa, dead or alive. Red Thunder used every argument in his power to save his *protege*, but to no purpose. Then taking his gun he said: "Since you will not permit me to keep the Ottawa, you shall not kill him, but I will," and shot him, the same ball accidentally killing a young O-ma-haw who was behind the Ottawa. The O-ma-haws took the two bodies away with them. War was now imminent in consequence of this mishap of Red Thunder's; and, in order to avert the impending outbreak, early the next morning the Sioux chief mounted his horse, and rode alone to the O-ma-haw camp, singing his death song, and with his knife, as he rode among their lodges, cut pieces of flesh from his thighs, and throwing them to the dogs, said: "My friends, I fed my dogs with your flesh yesterday, and am now come to feast your dogs on my poor flesh, in hopes that we may continue brethren." Red Thunder was carefully taken from his horse, his wounds dressed, and, in time, he was loaded with presents and sent home, thus preserving the harmony of the two war-like tribes.

In 1813 old Red Thunder and part of his band volunteered to go with Col. Dickson against the Americans, and were present at the battle of Fort Meigs, on the Maumee. On his return home he had many marvelous stories to relate, such as the folly of the English soldiers running up to cut down the pickets, and being themselves shot down in the attempt. Another great piece of folly was, in his estimation, "that the English had placed their great big guns—cannons—a long way from the pickets; and they took little tin kettles, filled them with rifle balls, and put these kettles, one at a time, into the big gun, and fired it off at the clouds, as if they were ducks. I told them" said Red Thunder, "to shoot at the fort; but they

tility, but they could not answer for those below—they spoke for themselves only. They smoked and danced together and parted in apparent friendship and harmony."

The extent of the frontier and the number of tribes within the agency kept up an almost incessant excitement as to their affairs, and to keep the government advised of all their movements, required constant vigilance and the writing of numerous letters. Under date of June 13, 1831, Mr. Burnett writes to Gen. Clark: "I have received since the last mail from this place information which I consider entitled to credit, that a war party of Sioux is now being organized among Washaba's band to go against the Chippewas, by a warrior of some note in that band. I have also understood that there are a few Menomonees, relatives of those who were killed by the Chippewas in the fall and winter past, now with the band of Sioux. But I have not been able to learn whether they intend joining the Sioux in their expedition or not, but think it probable that some of them will do so."

Under date of June 29th he wrote: "I am informed by Maj. Langham, who arrived here from below a few days since, that the Winnebagoes of the Prophet's village on Rock river, have united with the Sauks and Foxes. The Winnebagoes of the Wisconsin and Upper Mississippi are still peaceable. They are most likely waiting to see the first results of the movements below, and intend to act afterwards according to circumstances.

"Until within two or three weeks past, very few of those Indians have visited this place for a length of time, fewer, I am told, than usual at this season of the year. Lately a great many of them have been here, the most of whom came down the Wisconsin and have gone up the Mississippi. A great portion of them are old men, women and children. They continue to pass by daily. Many rumors are in circulation as to their present disposition and intention; very few of which are, perhaps, entitled to implicit belief. They have served, however, to give considerable alarm to many of the inhabitants of the prairie, and many of them begin to think themselves in danger. I have spared no pains to ascertain the disposition of the Winnebagoes here and have found no evidence of a disposition to hostilities on their part, unless their sending so many of their old men, women and children up the river and purchasing powder in larger quantities than usual for ordinary hunting, should indicate something of the kind.

"I also learned a few days since that the one-eyed Decori had left his village at Prairie La Crosse and gone down to the Sauks and Foxes. This was accidentally communicated tomy informant by a Winnebago and is probably true. Decori was down about two weeks since and called to see me on his return home. His deportment was as usual; I saw no change. In fact I have not discovered any change in the deportment or appearance of any of them that I have seen. They all appear to be perfectly friendly. None of the traders here think they have any hostile intentions.

"Col. Morgan left the fort for Rock Island on the morning of the 27th inst., with two companies from his post, and two more from Fort Winnebago, under Maj. Twiggs. He had previously called in all fatigue parties and put his whole force under a course of training. Much alarm prevails in the mines. The people are arming and preparing for their defense. I do not consider that there is any immediate danger either here or in this vicinity. Much, however, will doubtless depend on the result below. The Sioux and Menomonees are certainly friendly, and against the Sauks and Foxes, would willingly unite with the whites if permitted to do so. I have heard nothing since my last of a war party of those Indians against the Chippewas."

In February, 1832, Mr. Burnett was in Kentucky, when Gen. Street wrote him that "the Menomonees and Sioux are preparing for a retaliatory war against the Sauks and Foxes in the spring. The Menomonees have made peace

with the Chippewas, in order to have no fears from that quarter. The two tribes met above the mill on the Chippewa and made their peace. I have advised the superintendent so as to have the earliest interferance, if any is intended. The Sauks and Foxes, I learn, expect retaliation and will be prepared to meet them. If the government is not early in stopping them, they will certainly go in considerable force, and a bloody contest may be expected."

About the 1st of April Mr. Burnett received instructions, while yet in Shelbyville, to "proceed to the agency at Prairie du Chien by way of St. Louis, and call on Gen. Clark for the funds allotted to the agency for 1832, or such portion thereof as he shall determine to forward. The receipts will be forwarded to you at St. Louis as soon as a conveyance by steamboat shall occur." Mr. Burnett reached the agency about the 1st of May. At that time the Sauks and Foxes under Black Hawk were in hostile movements on Rock river, with Gen. Atkinson in pursuit. To aid in the defense of the country, Gen. Atkinson, from Dixon's ferry, May 26, 1832, addressed Gen. Street as follows:

"SIR:—I have to request that you send me at this place, with as little delay as possible, as many Menomonee and Sioux Indians as can be collected, within striking distance of Prairie du Chien. I want to employ them in conjunction with the troops against the Sauks and Foxes, who are now some fifty miles above us in a state of war against the whites. I understand the Menomonees, to the number of 300 warriors, who were with you a few days ago, are anxious to take part with us. Do encourage them to do so, and promise them rations, blankets, pay, etc. I have written to Capt. Loomis to furnish them some arms, if they can be spared, and ammunition. If there are none at Prairie du Chien, I must procure some in this quarter. Col. Hamilton, who has volunteered his services to lead the Indians to this place, will hand you this letter; and if the Indians can be prevailed on to come, will perform the duty. I have to desire that Mr. Marsh may be sent with Col. Hamilton and the Indians, and an interpreter of the Menomonee language." In accordance with this requirment, Gen. Street gave, on May 30, to Mr. Burnett the following instructions:

"SIR:—You will please proceed with Mr. John Marsh, who goes express to the nearest Sioux village, and render him such aid as may be necessary in obtaining as many Indians as possible, to come down with you, and proceed under the command of Mr. Marsh to join Gen. Atkinson. The letter of Gen. Atkinson will be your guide in the business. Use every means to expedite the object; and hasten your return, as much depends upon the expedition."

The nearest Sioux village was 130 miles up the river from the seat of the agency, which had to be ascended in canoes, there being no steamer then to be had. Yet in six days after receiving the order, Mr. Burnett made the following report to Gen. Street:

"SIR:—In obedience to your order of the 30th ult., I set out immediately from this place, in company with Mr. Marsh, in a canoe, with eight hands, to visit the nearest village of the Sioux Indians. From recent indications among the Winnebagoes of the upper Mississippi of a disposition to engage in hostilities with the Sauks and Foxes, Mr. Marsh and myself thought best to call at their village on the river La Crosse, and invite so many as might be disposed to join us on our return, and go with the Sioux and Menomonees to join Gen. Atkinson's army on Rock River. We arrived at the Winnebago village on the evening of the next day after leaving this post, and that night had a talk with the chiefs and braves upon the subject. Win-o-a-she-kan was opposed to the measure, and declined having anything to do with it. He said the Sauks had twice, this season, presented the red wampum to the Winnebagoes at Portage, and that they had as often washed it white, and handed it back to them; that he did not like that red thing, he was afraid of it. Waudgh-

said two must remain with me, and four go—to settle among themselves who should go and who should remain. They carried some goods to pay for the meat, and two quarts of corn were roasted and pounded for their journey.

Before daylight the next morning they were on their way, and were to be back in nine long, anxious days. The Yankton band, to which Ance belonged, had left in Red Thunder's charge a horse with a dislocated shoulder, and could not recover. The corn was all now but gone; the bitter sweet within a reasonable distance had been devoured, and I brought to poverty and to my wit's end; and yet four days before the men could return.

Hard is the task my poverty compels,
To get my living amid savage yells.

I sent for Red Thunder to consult about our future. His only hope, however, lay in the chance of the coming of the buffalo; but I was not of his way of thinking, and suggested the killing of the horse. But he said no—he dared not, for the Yankton would be very angry. Before I was up the next morning, however, Red Thunder came thumping at my door and calling at the top of his voice, my Sioux name—"Wee-yo-te-huh! (The Meridian Sun) the horse is dead." The old chap had stuck the horse, and when I got to the spot, he had skinned the animal's head and part of the neck; and parts of it were soon stuck on sticks roasting, and parts being made into broth in the Indian lodges. I got for my part a piece of the upper portion of the neck; it was eatable, but, in truth, I would have preferred roast lamb. My Indian friends kept cooking and eating without relaxation, night or day, until the old horse, save hoofs and bones, had been consumed.

The nine days for the men's return had passed, and they came not. On the eleventh day I went six or eight miles, in hopes to meet them, but returned disappointed and grieved. When within a mile of the house, about dusk, I met with one of those scabby buffaloes and managed to end his misery; and reporting my success to Red Thunder, his Indian friends, with knives, tomahawks and torches, were soon on their way to this lucky God-send, in their estimation. To partake of such meat, I knew I could not. My last pint of corn was being roasted. I had some apprehensions that my absent men had been killed, which was the least of my fears; but there was greater danger that they had been lost or buried in the snow—particularly the latter; thoughts of such accidents had often occurred to my mind. In any case, if they failed to return with supplies, my only alternative was to write an account of matters and things, and make up my last bed.

On the twelfth day of their abscence, I had been straining my eyes with melancholy reflections till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when I retired to the house to smother care and anxiety in smoke. I had not long been at the pipe when a general shout of joy was raised at the Indian camps—"The white men are coming!" I was not slow to see for myself; and here they came, loaded with dried buffalo meat, and the welcome news that Broken Leg with a lot of his young men would bring ample supplies in a few days. This was good news. When, with marks of reproach, I asked them why they had not returned sooner, they told me they had been two and a half days buried in the snow. I could not doubt them, for I was aware that such things happened every winter on these plains.

Not many winters before this, an Indian, with eight white men, saw a storm approaching, and with all haste made for a little clump of trees for shelter. But when within half a mile of the goal, they were compelled by the severity of the storm, to lie down and be covered with the avalanche of snow falling. The wind and drift are so powerful that people cannot face them and breathe. These nine persons remained under snow for three days; and but for the Indian, the whites would all have perished. He had been caught before; he kept himself

raised to near the surface by packing the snow under him, which also kept him in a cooler atmosphere, so the place where he was, continued dry, though warm. He could, moreover, being near the surface, with only a thin layer of snow, over him discern when the storm had abated.

At the end of the third day, he went to the little bush or wood, made on a rousing fire, and cutting a ten foot pole, returned to hunt up and liberate his imprisoned companions. This he accomplished by thrusting the pole at random, until one would seize it, when the Indian would dig him out. He found them all dripping wet; and the wind having rendered the snow firm, he packed each one, as he brought him from his cave, to the fire, otherwise they would have soon frozen, coming out of their warm bath into so chilly an atmosphere. For unless a person thus buried scrapes the snow from above, and packs it below or under him, the heat of his body melts the snow, and he finds himself in a pool of water.

As promised, at the end of four days Broken Leg arrived, with ten of his young men, loaded with dried meat, pelican, buffalo's bladders filled with marrow, and a few furs. I paid them well, and all were pleased, except one young fellow, who had a wolf skin to trade; but he wanted four times its value, which I would not give. He then drew his robe about him, and leaning on the counter, as is the Indian habit, with intention of tiring me out. I, however, wrapped myself also in a robe, and laughingly lay down on another robe, when my lad finding he was beaten at his own game, went off in a rage, and I went to trading with the others. Broken Leg was soon informed that Master Wolf was preparing his bow and arrows to shoot me on emerging from the shop. The chief was up instantly, and going from my apartment to the men's room, found Master Wolf ready to bleed me; and took his bow and arrow from him. He then gave him a few thumps over the head, threw his weapons into the fire, and turned him out of the room. On their going away the next morning, I gave the chief a keg of rum; and not expecting it, they were all the more delighted. This was the last I saw of this tribe of *Les Gens des Perches*.

Now we all—Red Thunder *and his people included—lived luxuriously on roast and boiled meat—rather tough and smoky, to be sure, but the best that the country afforded, or money could buy. March was now close at hand; the wild fowl would then afford me amusement, but first of all I must look after the fur hunters. At length they came, well loaded too, only to stay one night, consequently all of Red Thunder's, as well as my own, spare rooms and beds were occupied. They paid me amply. I made a splendid trade, gave them two kegs, each containing three gallons of high wines and six of water. True, they might have gotten the water at their camp; but carrying it on their backs twenty-five miles would mix it better. They made a little speech, hoping I would come again; but my heart might have said: "My face you shall see no more." Pack-making, boat-fixing, bird-shooting, and patiently waiting for the ice to melt out of the streams, were now the objects that occupied my attention.

The Sioux, from about forty miles above the mouth of the river St. Peter's to its sources, and away over the plains, are, or were then, known as the Upper Sioux, and those below that to Prairie du Chien, the Lower Sioux, and were widely different in their character. The latter were more reasonable, and more easily managed, being less savage. This may, perhaps, be attributed to their chiefs having repeatedly, in the early days of Canada, visited Quebec, and got large presents, parchment

* Lieut. Pike, when on his public mission up the Mississippi, in 1805—1806, did what he could to repress the sale of liquor to the Indians. When at Prairie du Chien, in April, 1806, he thus spoke of Red Thunder: "I was sent for by Red Thunder, chief of the Yanktons, the most savage band of the Sioux. He was prepared with the most elegant pipes and robes I ever saw. Shortly after, he declared, 'that white blood had never been shed in the village of the Yanktons, even when rum was permitted; that Mr. Murdoch Cameron arrived in his village last Autumn; that he invited him (Cameron) to eat, and gave him corn as a bird; and that he, Cameron, informed him of the prohibition of rum, and was the only person who afterwards sold it in the village.'"

commissions, and silver medals—one side of which was the king's head, and the British coat of arms on the other, presented to them, through the Indian department, from Gen. Haldimand and Lord Dorchester, and other early Canada governors. In those days the Indians were strong, but yet treated the English with kindness, and placed full confidence in them. Do we reciprocate their friendship and liberality now that we are strong and they weak ?

Ice gone and boat loaded, good-bye forever to the Yankton band of Sioux Indians, now destined to the Mississippi, Prairie du Chien and Mackinaw. While at Mackinaw this year (1810) in passing through Robert Dicksons room one day, I saw several books on his table, among which were two copies of the Bible. Recollecting the interest my parents appeared to take in this book, I at once concluded I must have one of them. To ask Mr. Dickson for one would be useless; and my good friend Parson Stuart, the old Mohawk missionary, had so impressed upon my mind that stealing would be a breach of one of the commandments—therefore I dared not take it. My conscience was quieted with the suggestion that I could *borrow it*, which I did, faithfully returning it the next year; but like many other things I have left undone, I did not read it with the attention I should have done.

The remainder of my Indian trading years was spent with the Lower Sioux Indians. One season at Lake St. Croix (1810–11). This year the much-respected Sioux Chief Onk-e-tah En-du-tah, or Red Whale, while spending part of the summer (of 1810) with many of his people at Prairie du Chien, lost his only daughter there. He determined to take her remains up to his village and bury them with those of her relatives—a distance of about 200 miles, and in the burning hot month of August. He placed the corpse in his canoe and started, two other families following in their respective canoes. When they had accomplished about half their journey on the eighth day, they reached lake Pepin; he landed, and threw the putrid body into the water, saying: "I cannot carry my child's body any farther; but her bones must be buried with her mother and sisters. Will any one help me separate the bones from the decayed and decaying flesh." No one responded. He threw off his covering; and sitting down on the beach, went to work and cleaned the flesh from every bone, throwing the decayed parts into the lake. He then got some grass, tied them up carefully, placed them in his canoe, and renewed his journey. During this operation, as well as occasionally when on his route home, he would sing the death song, accompanied with loud wailings and tears, producing an indescribable melancholy, and echo from the surrounding hills, well calculated to turn the most joyous heart into mourning.

I have much to say about the Red Whale, and his strange story of his origin—an invention by which he acquired the most, if not all, of his popularity over his superstitious followers. He was a great orator, as well as successful war chief, and a friend of the whites.

When he was about twenty-five years of age, so I was informed, he made a feast, and invited the principal men of his tribe, and thus addressed them: "My friends, you all know that as soon as I could use the bow and gun well, I placed myself under a warrior and a medicine man, to learn all they knew ; I blackened my face ; I fasted many days, and dreamed many dreams. I then followed you on the war path. Few of you, on our return, made the women and children dance and sing more than I have done, for coming home with even one scalp, causes days of dancing and rejoicing." Then referring to his trophied head, he added: "You know how I got this hair and these feathers from your enemies' heads. I love the Sioux, and will now tell you where I came from, and how I became one of your people.

"When this world was small, and only a few camps upon it, a long way from here I was born

in a land where the people were all black; and, on growing up to manhood, I hated this black meat. My father would not let me travel to see other tribes, so I told him I would die. Mother wanted to keep me; but no, I was unhappy amongst this black people, and I died. It is a fact that all the Indian tribes I have met with hate negroes. "I laid there," he continued, "about 600 years. At last I became weary, so I got up one night, very carefully, for fear of disturbing the old people; for had they heard me, they would not have permitted me to go and travel. It was a good night; the moon was bright; I could only see a little piece of it. I started. No one could hear my wings or see my body. In crossing over the great Salt Lake, I got very tired; but I did not like to die in the water, and took courage. I got to a tree where I took a good sleep. After that, I traveled to many places, looking out for a good camp where I would be happy; but the camps I saw were mostly white, with some blacks—I did not like them. At last I got here one day, when the sun had gone down out of sight. Hearing singing and dancing at the Falling Water (St. Anthonys Falls), I perched myself on that big oak tree where your people encamp. From my elevated place, I could see through the tops of the lodges all things within as well as without. A war party had just returned with the scalps of their enemies. They were the most merry people I had ever seen, feasting, singing, dancing, and engaged in all kinds of sports. So I concluded to try your way for a while.

"When all was quiet and the fires burned down, I crept into the lodge of Cut-Thumb, the war chief, and became by choice a Sioux. Now, my friends, you know my history; and I now tell you, I want to be your war chief. If you say 'no,' I will soon die, and travel to some other country; but if you say 'yes,' I will lead you on the war-path until my legs get too old and frail to carry me." There was no opposition; he did not leave the lodge a common warrior, but head chief of the tribe.

The first time I saw him, in 1806, he appeared to be about fifty years of age. I think, in 1807,* Lieut. Pike, of the American army, afterwards Gen. Pike, of Little York fame, was on his way to discover the source of the Mississippi. He slept for the night on an island, immediately opposite the mouth of the St. Peter's. It was late in November. The Red Whale, with part of his band, was encamped on the island at the time. An awful storm of wind, snow, hail and rain came up, with thunder and lightning. The storm had abated in the morning, and Lieut. Pike missed his flag. After the usual military invitation, the man who was on sentry at the time was pinioned to be flogged. Red Whale, hearing a rumpus in the camp, went up to see what it was all about. He found the man tied to a tree, ready to be scored, and the chief was told by the American commander that the man had lost the flag, and must be flogged.

Red Whale said "No," and added: "I'll send my young men for it, as it must have caught in the brush." But Lieut. Pike persisted in his determination to punish the negligent soldier. Red Whale drew his knife, and said: "I will stick the first one that strips that soldier." The "stars and stripes" were brought forward, the man released, and Red Whale lectured the lieutenant for having been himself the cause of the flag's loss. "You knew," said he to Pike, "that it was a black night; we could not see the length of my arrow. Any one might have taken it away. You knew the wind was strong enough to tear it to pieces, and you should have taken it into your tent."

With this cutting reproof Red Whale thought all was settled, and he went to his camp; but soon another rumpus was heard in the American

*Capt. Anderson is somewhat at fault as to the date when Lieut. Pike camped on the island at the mouth of the St. Peter's. According to Pike's Travels, page 24, it was Sept. 21, 1805; but nothing is related by the lieutenant as to the incident of the Red Whale.

encampment, and he ran there with all haste. He found the man again tied to the tree, ready for the nine tails. "I told you," said Red Whale, not to hurt this man. You have got your flag. What more has he done?" "Nothing," was the reply, "but he must be punished." "I say no," retorted the Sioux chief; "white man's blood shall not stain my land—unloose him." "No," replied Pike, he must be flogged." "I say he must not," said Red Whale, and gave the shrill war whoop. A portion of his warriors were quickly at his side, whom he ordered to cut the strings and let the soldier go. It was soon done, and Red Whale turning to the officer, said:

"Young man! my name is Onk-e-tah En-du-tah. I know all that happens for many a day's journey around me. It was your fault, and not the soldier's, that your flag floated down the river. Now I warn you, if you hurt this man during the winter, I will make a hole in your coat when you come back in the spring. Go now; you may tell all the Sioux you meet that Red Whale desires them to be kind to you and your soldiers, and give you plenty to eat; but, as I have warned you, beware of hurting that man's back."

The Lower Sioux at this time consisted of six bands, to wit: That of Wau-be-shaw, or The Leaf, the most respected, as he had been twice to Quebec, where he had received medals, flags and other presents, which the Sioux remember with gratitude to this day. Their offspring are at this moment as fond of and loyal to the British government as their ancestors were. Whoo-pah En-du-tah,* or Red Wing,† who was famed for foretelling events, was at the head of one of the bands; Red Whale, another; Shock-o-pe, or The Six, another; Kah-hai-ge-gad, or Little Crow, and Thunder, the remaining two bands. Red Thunder, in fact, was not considered as fixedly attached to any particular band or locality; but his was a roving, friendly band, welcome any and everywhere.

About the year 1810, whether from a prospect of war, or what, I know not, the Americans would not permit British traders, though we were willing to pay the duties on them as usual, to carry goods into the Indian country within the territory of the United States. This was bad news. The Montreal merchants had landed their goods, as formerly, at the island of St. Joseph, a British garrisoned outpost, forty-five miles distant from Mackinaw; and Indian traders were waiting for their outfits, without which the Indians would be great sufferers. All arguments failed; "Jonathan" would not permit us to enter his territory.

After a brief consultation, eight of us (in the autumn of 1810) formed a league or partnership, with the intention of running the blockade, or sinking our all in the adventure. The parties to this arrangement were: Robert Dickson of Queenstown, U. C., head man; Allen Wilmot, T. G. Anderson, Jacob Franks, Joseph Rolette, John Lawe, James and George Aird, of Prairie du Chien. Seven well filled boats, containing, altogether, about £10,000 worth of goods, were in a few days in readiness, with about 100 guns, all loaded and distributed conveniently on the boats for ready use, in case of an attack by American soldiers from the Mackinaw garrison. We started early in the morning, and, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, came in sight of the dreaded fort, nine miles in front of us. Prudence directed the shoving of our boats into the rushes and await the night. We hailed an Indian passing and impressed him as our guide or pilot. In a straight line it was fifteen miles, which would require us to pass immediately under the garrison's guns, and beneath the high bank, so as to be out of reach of the revenue officer; but, to be on the safe side we took

*En-du-tah, red—whoo-pah, wing; onk-e-tah, whale, and en-du-tah, red; Wack-haw, thunder—en-du-tah, red; hence, Red Wing, Red Whale and Red Thunder.

†Pike, in his Travels, page 23, mentions Red Wing, in September, 1805, as the "second war chief in the nation. He made me a speech and presented a pipe, pouch and buffalo skin. He appeared to be a man of sense, and promised to accompany me to St. Peter's; he saluted me, and had it returned. I made him a small present."

the deep bay route on the northern side of the island—increasing our night's work five miles, no trifling matter for people in a hurry.

About daylight it blew hard, a heavy sea arose and my boat sprang a leak. Had not the guard kept a good look-out, we would have been discovered; but another and a strong pull took us out of view around Point St. Ignace, where we repaired my boat, boxed up the guns and proceeded fearlessly on our journey. At Green Bay we spent two days giving Mr. Jacob Franks and Mr. John Lawe their outfits of goods. Mr. Dickson and the two Airds went above the Falls of St. Anthony for their trading grounds; Mr. Wilmot, second in command of the combination, chose for himself Rolette and Anderson to winter on the island where Red Whale prevented Lieut. Pike from whipping one of his soldiers. Wilmot and Rolette had never wintered with the Sioux before, and thought it would be safer to have the protection of a fort for a trading-post; and though a novel notion in this part of the country, it must be done. It nearly cost me my life. The necessary stores and dwellings forming three sides of a square and stout oak pickets the other.

This year, following the custom of the country, which I had hitherto resisted, I took to live with me a little half-breed. When the Indians came out from their winter hunting grounds in spring, they formed ab ut 300 lodges. They encamped immediately about the fort; and after the trading was over, the usual bonus of high wines was issued to them. This was done in the morning; and, immediately after, our head man (Wilmot) started to visit another band of Indians, taking with him twelve out of our full strength—sixteen in all; thus leaving me with two white men and a negro, to meet the storm which generally took place at the close of these drunken carousals, when they were particularly thirsty, and their supply was cut off.

All were jolly in the camp during the day, dancing, singing and hair-pulling prevailed; and sometimes an attempt at stabbing. One poor fellow was stabbed over the right eye, following the skull around till it reached the left ear. An old man had his skull fractured by a heavy stroke from a fire-brand. On sobering off next morning, and fearing the fracture would result in his loss of hearing, as had been the case with his brother before him; and firm in the conviction that after his departure he should join his brother in the land of happy spirits, he used a stiff straw, probing the wound and preventing all chance of healing and recovery, and soon died.

About 12 o'clock at night the supply of grog became scanty. The empty kegs had been heated over the fire, and rinsed till even the smell of liquor was no longer perceptible; and to obtain more of the fiery beverage, one reckless fellow, with gun in hand, scaled our fortification, while the four guardsmen were sleeping in supposed security. The interpreter slept in a room, the door of which opened into the yard; and my room was adjoining. The noise of the drunken Indians outside had awakened him; and he called to me saying there was an Indian in the yard with his gun. I threw on my clothes as quickly as I could; got to the door, with my hand on the latch, standing with my full front to the door. The interpreter now said something to me which I did not understand; and on turning to ask an explanation, the Indian fired, the ball passing through the door at the very spot where I had just been standing. The concussion nearly knocked me down. I looked on the floor and felt of my body but found no blood. I then rushed out and caught the fellow by the hair before he had finished re-loading his gun for a second shot. I threw him on his back before he had time to think of what was transpiring, and drew him inside, placing him in charge of the negro. All this did not consume five minutes, including my merciful preservation, through God's providential care of me. Mr. Rolette, the third white man, pretended that he did not hear the

firing, and when I knocked at his door and bid him get ready for a fight, he would not move until I threatened to break into his room; and, in loading his gun, he so shook with fear, that he broke his ram rod. When we were all ready, I took the interpreter to the pickets and had him call to the Indians and say, that they need not send away their women and children, as they commenced doing, for we did not wish to kill them, but let the warriors come on, if they desired to do so.

In an instant the whole Indian camp was in motion, women screaming, children crying, dogs howling. Some of the Indians were in search of their guns, which their women had hid away before the spree began, lest in their drunken orgies they might kill one another. Every few minutes I called out to them, inquiring if the women and children were gone, and if the warriors were ready for the fray. At length I discerned some one very cautiously approaching the fort; and on challenging him as to who he was, and what he wanted? He replied: "I am Red Whale; let me in. I want to take care of the whites." This was good news. I knew we were safe under his protection. He insisted on my releasing my prisoner, which I did, and all became quiet.

By 10 o'clock the next morning, the would be murderer invited all to a feast. On the receipt of this invitation, we all concluded that our end had come, and my companions were indisposed for the breakfast tendered. But we must show pluck; so placing my two pistols in my belt, I led the way; and, to our great relief, on reaching the door of the lodge, the pipe of peace was presented to us, which was a confession and atonement for the culprit's drunken folly. I always found, that to be truthful, honest and unflinching, where justice was demanded, invariably gained respect and confidence with all Indian tribes.

In two days the Indians were all gone, Mr. Wilmot and party had returned, our packs were made up, and our friend Dickson, from above the St. Anthony Falls, had arrived. A council of the partners was held, at which it was determined, as a quantity of goods remained over, to carry on a summer's trade for deer skins, and I was requested to take charge of the post, and conduct the trade. I consented to do so, on condition of their leaving with me one of the boats, an interpreter and four men. This was acceded to, and I was left in sole charge of the Sioux trade.

In case this narrative should fall into the hands of any French cooks, which is not very likely, I must enlighten him touching the mode in which we prepared a Christmas dinner in Onke-tah En-du-tah's dominions, in the year 1811. Our stock of wild fowl, which our fall sport had laid in, was consumed. The Indians, on whom we had depended for venison, were a great distance from us; and we had, for some time, been feasting on dried and smoked musk-rats, a bale of which savory meat had been secured from the Indian autumnal hunting season. Christmas day had arrived; and, as on former festival days, I was minded to prepare something new for myself and friends to eat, and to talk about for awhile.

So, immediately after breakfast, I called my servant and told him we intended to have a "sea-pie" for dinner; and that it must be made under my own inspection, as I wanted it particularly nice. "So," said I, "go and wash your hands very clean and bring Red Whale's large wooden bowl full of flour, to be made into a paste." That being done and set by the fire to raise, I directed that six of the fattest musk-rats that could be found in the bale be brought; cut off the head and hairy part of the feet, throwing them away. Divide each musk-rat into six parts and wash them in warm water. Then put into a piece of deer-skin, a dozen grains of pepper and powder it, by pounding, as fine as snuff, and pulverize some salt also.

"Is the bake-kettle clean?" "Yes, sir," replied the servant, "I baked bread in it yesterday." "All right," said I; "now roll out some paste

the size of the bake-kettle, not more than half an inch thick; grease the bottom of the kettle with that lump of tallow; fit the paste to the bottom of the dish. Then lay on the paste a layer of musk-rat meat; pepper and salt it; then some strips of paste over the meat, and so alternate the courses till the kettle is nearly full." After filling the dish with water, covering it tight with plenty of live coals on the top, it was left to cook by a slow fire. But pepper and salt did not save it, nor savory crust convert musk-rat into relishable food. On opening the pie, so sickening was the effluvia emanating from it, that all were glad to rush to the door for fresh air. Nor have I ever since voted in favor of smoked musk-rat pies.

Fishing and shooting were now out of season, Indians were away at their summer villages, and time began to hang heavily on my hands. No books, no news from the outside world, no exchange of ideas with my fellow men, except an occasional visit from some old chief, who, pleased to find me amused with his superstitious and long-tailed stories of the pre-adamite period, only interesting from the dreams and vagaries of his forefathers, would sit, drink tea, smoke and talk by the hour.

To kill time, I planted a few potatoes and some corn around the fort, and they produced marvelous crops on which I and my men made marvelous meals. The Indians have capacious stomachs. One old fellow offered a wager that he could eat at one sitting sixty of the largest potatoes I could produce, and would have weighed at least thirty pounds; but, knowing that he had lately eaten a full grown ground-hog, and drank a pint of oil to keep it down, I declined the bet.

The Indians were now collecting for their summer's hunt on the upper Mississippi, and I prepared to accompany them, to encourage their hunting; but how to get my boat over St. Anthonys Falls was a serious consideration. I, however, set the men to work to make four wheels, with a temporary rigging, not having tools to do more. As the Indians were going in the direction of their Chippewa enemies, I took with me a pound swivel, in case of accidents. On reaching the falls, I got my boat on the truck, but a break-down soon followed. My hunters turned out with willing hands and the boat was soon over.

From this point a narrow fringe of timber shades the river above. A few miles onward, Rum river, from the east, and a few miles farther, Crow river, from the west, both powerful tributaries, largely swell the Mississippi. Above them the river narrows gradually, as far as I went, until it becomes a small stream of eighty or 100 yards wide. In this fringe of timber the deer retire from the scorching sun of summer; and if the mosquitoes are troublesome, the pestered animals plunge into the river.

Our first day's hunt was not very successful. It was confined to one side of the stream, with our camp at Crow river. The next and succeeding days we were on both sides, and the shots were frequent. The hunters were in their canoes, gaily and leisurely paddling and chatting, while the children were squalling and yelling lustily—occasionally stopping to pick berries—while the hunters were keeping abreast of the navigators, outside the wood, and shooting the deer as the noisy paddlers frightened them from their coverts.

We always laid by every third day to stretch and dry the skins. The meat of the slaughtered deer was very little cared for; I do not believe that more than one in ten of those killed was taken from the spot where they were skinned. On these resting days, the old trappers would go up quietly to the place indicated for the next two days' journey, and set their traps for the beaver, otter, musk-rats, etc., which would be collected as we journeyed on for the next ensuing two days.

On one occasion, the hunters had nearly all reached the place of rendezvous before I did. On arriving there, my attention was drawn to a large group of men, women and children at

short distance away; and on reaching the spot, I saw a a stout woman lying on her back, with a leather strap drawn tight about her neck, and she black in the face. Many of the by-standers were making jocular remarks at the folly of taking so slender a cord "to hang so *big a meat* to." I cut the strap and dashed water in her face, and she revived; when she jawed me roundly for bringing her back to her cruel sister. On inquiry, I found that she and her elder sister were married to a fellow called "Cut Thumb," and, in a fit of jealousy, the elder had struck the younger with a hoe. Out of revenge and spite to her rival and husband, she found and climbed a convenient tree, to a limb of which she fastened one end of a strap, and the other to her neck, and jumped off; but as many of the sight-seers unfeelingly said, the leather was *unfortunately* not strong enough.

At length our Sioux hunters had reached the borders of their Chippewa enemies, and consequently alarms were frequently, though falsely reported. The scouts, who hunted no longer abreast of the navigators, but took an early morning start in advance of the canoes. At length a trap had been lost; and the only possible way of accounting for it was, that it had been stolen by their thieving enemies.

We had now reached a sandy plain, a beautiful spot for our resting day. The war chief, who had now command of the expedition, had blackened his face and sung his war song in expectation of an attack from the Chippewas the next morning. He increased the number of scouts, directing them not to fire a shot, and to exercise every care in discovering traces of the enemy. About 4 o'clock the scouts came in reporting having heard and seen sorts of imaginable things their superstitious fancies could invent—foot-prints, gun reports, indications where fire had been made, the glistening from looking-glasses—for young Indian dandies often carry small looking-glasses attached to their belts, which in the sun, reflect the glaring light a great distance. Other signs were also reported—buffalo, deer, ducks, geese, etc., going in all directions, as if escaping from the hunter, and smelling the enemy.

Not one word of any of these reports was true. It, however, accorded with our Gen. Cut-Thumb's prediction, that the enemy were at hand. A council of war was forthwith called, by which it was concluded that we had been discovered by the Chippewas, and they would be upon us during the night. The warriors were directed to sharpen their knives, clean their guns, and have everything in readiness for battle. The women were ordered to extinguish the fires, and carry their children back to the bush; and the old and infirm to guard the lodges. The excitement was too great for me to describe; it was, however, confined to the women and children, for the warriors were quietly preparing their weapons for great slaughter.

At length Cut-Thumb requested me to do him the favor to join him in a raid he was about to make on the terrible Chippewas, aud take my artillery with me. To this I readily consented on condition that he would provide transportation for my gun, which he promised. I was told that we were immediately to proceed about a mile up the river, to a place where we could not fail to annihilate the expected war party. My gun having been well swabbed out, and charged with twenty-five fusil balls, and a novel kind of port-fire constructed of dry cedar bark, crushed fine, and rubbed with a coat of tallow—the construction of which occupied me, perhaps, five minutes. Meanwhile, I was reminded by my chief every ten seconds, that delays were dangerous.

All, at length, being ready, one of my gunners shouldered my cannon, the other its carriage—they were very Samsons; and all on tiptoe marched off for the selected battle-ground—"conquer or die," and "no quarters," were our mottoes. The artillery commander had neither paint nor feathers, but his braves were dressed in their best, so that in the event of the enemy

taking one of their scalps, the Chippewa women might say: "What a handsome fellow he must have been!"

When the words "halt! prepare for action," were whispered, I found myself, gunners, portfire, all, on the edge of a perpendicular sandbank, which terminated at the water's beach, sixty feet below; and, immediately opposite, an island, which, at this season of the year contracted the stream to about thirty yards wide, the main channel being on our side. It was now getting dark, and I had much difficulty in adjusting the royal artillery, so as to fire a perpendicular shot downward to destroy the expected fleet of Chippewa canoes.

The plan of attack was so arranged that on the canoes arriving within common range, I was to discharge my one pound artillery, which, it was supposed, would throw the fleet ito confusion, when the general discharge of small arms would cause many to fall, and throw the enemy into still further dismay. The Sioux braves would jump, roll or tumble down hill, plunge into the grand old Father of Waters, and stab, tomahawk or drown every Chippewa son of them who should have the temerity to invade the country of the Wau-be-shas,the Red Whales and the Cut-Thumbs. The dry grass was to be fired, to throw light on the massacre, and to distinguish friend from foe. I was to remain on the bank, and witness the extreme horrors of Indian war, or to retire to the woods, should I desire to avoid the murderous scene.

All was "hush," and if any one wished to smoke he must retire to the rear and hide the light of his pipe. All was extreme anxiety. At length the supposed paddling was heard at a distance, and as it became more distinct I confess I fully believed the noise proceeded from the action of paddles, the braves threw off every incumbrance of dress, except a well secured belt around the waist, in which to carry the carnage knife and tomahawk. The critical moment had now arrived; one of the supposed canoes had reached the boundary. But one of the braves who had stealthily gone down to the beach to appropriate to himself the first scalp and the earliest glory, yelled out, "*Sha-teck!*" the Sioux word for pelican; and up flew a hundred or more affrighted pelicans that had been innocently swimming down the river on a leisure foray against the little fishes. Thus suddenly and ludicrously was brought to a termination my first and bloodless war adventure.

Cut-Thumb's ambition was only increased by this disappointment. He dreamed dreams which were predictions of great success, and two days after we had reaped our pelican glories, he blackened his face, gave the war-whoop, and sang his war song. All the braves danced the war-dance around him. Wishing to see all of their folly I accepted the invitation courteously tendered me to join the party. They were now to invade the enemy's country, and glorious success would be the certain result. At daylight the next morning all were astir, and scouts sent in advance; and by 10 o'clock the remaining braves were in their canoes and under way. The warlike Cut-Thumb was standing in his canoe singing of the prowess and glories of the Sioux, and invoking his familiar spirit to be with them and crown their adventure with bountiful success.

Our progress was very slow, and made with studied precaution. When we had proceeded five or six miles we arrived at a place appointed to arrange the general's staff. It was an important appendage to a grand army. It consisted of two cooks or messengers; it would, perhaps, be more in military parlance to call them *aids-de-camp*. A band of music, too, must needs be provided. It consisted of a bass-drum, improvised from an empty nine gallon keg, one head out and a deerskin tightly drawn over it, with a small wooden hammer for a drum stick; a tamborine and two dried gourds, partly filled with pebbles, together with a variety of rattles of minor importance. These made up the band. A little concert was given in the evening to

test the ability of the performers. This ended the first day's progress of the campaign. Sentries being posted, each one wrapped in his blanket, lay down on the soft grass, covered by a deer skin, and bespangled with brilliant stars, to make the most of a short night.

Daylight next morning brought our pickets to camp, when pipes were cleaned out and the first smoke of the new-born day went round. Teeth were taxed to their uttermost to munch the stone-hard dried venison; after which we were, scouts and all, at our respective posts, *en route* for our anxiously looked for field of battle. The taking of a single scalp would have crowned the whole party with lasting honor, in their estimation. We went forward with muffled paddles, carefully scrutinizing every noise, the course of every deer or bird, which might indicate an approaching foe; and withal, carefully weighing the frequent reports, however improbable, of the principal scouts.

About noon we were called to halt, to have a big war dance. On landing, and stepping forward a few yards from the canoes, I found myself in a beautiful patch of prairie land, forming a circles of forty paces in diameter, as regular as if drawn by a compass. It was enclosed by thick shrubbery, with here and there a tall balsam and other evergreens. Nature had provided a splendid locality, eminently fitted for a social, enjoyable pic-nic, where boys and girls could romp and hide and go seek; dance, eat and grow fat. But it was not to be so honored now. On the contrary, Old Nick himself was to be invoked, and the most beastly ceremony to be performed I ever witnessed.

After all were landed from their canoes, a party of five or six were dispatched to the bush for a pole, while the others were employed in removing all impediments from within the circle. The bushmen soon returned with a balsam pole about forty feet long, denuded of its limbs and bark, except within about four feet of the top, which was left in its natural state. This pole was planted in the center of the amphitheatre. Up to this time all conversation was carried on in an under-tone, and all noise avoided as much as possible; but this restriction was, I thought, now inconsistently removed, so that all were at full liberty to yell to the utmost capacity of their lungs, and to smoke to their heart's content without restraint or fear of being smelt by an unseen enemy, and thus betraying their presence.

Gen. Cut-Thumb and his band were seated in the shade, tuning their instruments, and trying their dis-harmony, while the braves were dressing and primping for the dance. Finally the big drum gave its warning voice of tum-tum-tum, while the minor rattles joined in the rude chorus. Now the living actors, with deafening yells, frightful threats, and inhuman contortions commenced their circuitous jumping dance. A spectator was kindly invited to take a seat out of the way and near the music. Scarcely fifteen minutes had elapsed of this yelling gesticulation fandango, when an innocent dog attempted to run across this consecrated ground, but was suddenly arrested in his desecrating career by being pierced at mid-circle by half a dozen arrows. His body was instantly removed outside the dance ground, ripped open, the pluck taken out and hung on a stake about five feet high, which had been planted near the balsam pole.

The dance was now resumed, and sickening to relate, that many of the dancers in their rounds, would step up and take a bite out of this bleeding pluck, which they would either swallow themselves, or transfer it from their teeth to Cut-Thumb's mouth, who, being so amply fed with so delicious a repast, soon became so sick that he had to retire from the concert, and the scene changed.

They were to fire at the upper end of the pole, above where the peeled and unpeeled parts met. He whose shot would bring the green branches to the ground would take the first scalp. All this beastly humbug lasted about four hours. Then we again embarked,

scouts were sent out, and "hush" was the word, which seemed useless after the recent noisy carousal. At dusk our canoes were drawn into the grass skirting the shore, and the whole party, except the out-pickets, were snugly ensconced in a shrubbery thicket.

I had gotten a sufficient insight into their mode of warfare, and was completely disgusted with their savage performances. We were now about thirty miles from our camp. So next morning I asked Cut-Thumb for a small canoe, which they could well spare, which he readily turned over to me. The weather was fine, and with a strong, smooth current I made rapid progress, and might have shot several deer that were in the water to escape from the flies and gnats; but it would have been wanton cruelty, as I could not carry them with me. I reached my camp about 4 o'clock, my men rejoicing to see that I had not lost my hair.

On the next day I began packing and preparing for my return home, as there was no more prospect of further hunting, and the war party was not expected back for six or eight days. But, to my astonishment, Cut-Thumb and his party hove in sight, singing their triumphant song of having been six days on the war path without losing so much as a solitary scalp. In the evening a dance, called a ball, was given in celebration of the proud and happy event. Early the next morning all was bustle; and by 5 o'clock my boats and all were over the portage and below the falls of St. Anthony.

Here I had another proof of the care of a blessed providence over me. I had not noticed my cannon since the ever-to-be-remembered "pelican scare." It had been resting with its twenty-five ball charge, and wishing to notify my men whom I had left at the fort, I extracted the balls, primed it anew, and placed a piece of punk wood, lighted on one side, so that it would not ignite the powder until I had reached a safe distance away. The breeze, however, hastened the punk burning, and the gun went off, bursting and scattering it so that one fragment only was ever found, and that close to my feet. This happened in the midst of a group of at least 300 souls, and not one hurt. I thought in extracting the balls, some of the paper wadding must have remained in the gun which caused the mishap.

I was well-tired of Indian war humbug, and deer slaughtering. It appeared that Cut-Thumb, in his dreams, pretended to have found out that the little Englishman—We-yo-te-hun, the Meridian Sun—became, in some way, aware of danger ahead, which caused him to take his departure; and the war-party became so impressed with this foolish idea, that they hurriedly jumped into their canoes, and returned to We-yo-te-hun and his big gun. I must do the Sioux the justice to say, that on the whole, they were the most cleanly—had the best regulations as a tribe, though, like most others, governed by superstition—were the swiftest pedestrians—the best bow and arrow men—the most enormous eaters at their feasts, yet could abstain longer without food, than any of the numerous tribes I have met.

I at length reached home after four weeks sporting, glad of the change, and happy to rid myself of the many insects which nip so sharply in Indian camps. The remaining summer days of perfect idleness in my isolated situation, were long and tedious, varied only by accompanying a party of two canoes of hunters in search of buffaloes at the Great Stony Lake, the source of the river St. Peter's. When, on the fourth day, within eight or ten miles of our destination, we could hear the roar of the bulls, like the rumbling of distant thunder; and when within a mile of it, we could see thousands of them swimming about in the water. In fact, the whole lake was literally full of huge buffaloes, cooling themselves. The wind being favorable—*from*, not *towards* them—we went on quietly until we reached a clump of ten or fifteen acres of timber, where it was our intention to camp. At length my guide drew

my attention to the bush, which was also full of them.

He was the only hunter with us; I wanted to fire, but he shook his head as a veto on my wishes. Wrapped in a buffalo robe, he got quietly out of the canoe, passed unheeded through the crowd to the edge of the prairie land, about fifty yards, and immediately shot one. At this signal, I was at once in the bush among the host; but they were so frightened, running, jumping and bunting, that I was so confused that I could not take aim at any one in particular, so let fly at the flock, to no purpose. Within fifteen minutes, my guide had three fat cows lying at his feet. When I reached the prairie, the whole scene before us was one black, living, undulating, moving mass —tens of thousands of heavy, powerful beasts were fleeing from their hated enemies. But all had been put under Adam's control. I had not had a fair shot. In due time we returned home.

The wild fowl season came, and I practiced on them until the ice shut them off, and they disappeared; then followed a few days of musk-rat hunting, when winter shut me in. Not a book or paper of any kind to beguile and shorten the tedium of the season; a little trapping, and one snow-shoe trip of sixty miles to visit my nearest neighbor; then making oars and paddles to wear off the winter. Finally the Indian hunters came in, trade was soon over; my little half-breed took off my little boy and girl to her friends, and I never saw her again. My boat was repaired, and about the 20th of March, 1814, I left the river St. Peter's, with full intent to return to the trade, not, of course, knowing what a kind Providence had in store for me.

Arriving at Prairie du Chien, I, as usual, deposited such articles as I would require for the next winter's trade; and after feasting eight or ten days at my friend, Mons. Brisbois', on thickened milk and sugar, I started for Mackinaw. It being early in the season, and hard work for the men to stem the strong current of the Ouisconsin river, I permitted them to go on leisurely, stopping along the sand banks to collect turtles' eggs, which were excellent eating, and to kill rattle-snakes, some of which were very beautiful to behold—at a respectful distance—being about four feet long, with skin of a bright golden color, interspersed with ebony black heart-shaped spots.

But the eating of turtle's eggs was, after a few days, brought to a sudden termination. These eggs are somewhat less in size than a pigeon's. My cook brought me, as usual, a dozen for breakfast. On opening the first one, I observed something coiled in it, like a black hair; but how a hair could get inside of an egg, I could not make out. So I summoned the men to examine the phenomenon. They at once called out, "a snake." I was not aware till then that turtles' and rattlesnakes' eggs were quite similar, and that they both made their deposits in the sand, for the warmth of the sun to hatch; nor did I know how many young snakes I may have eaten. We had collected of the mixed kinds, and eaten at least a peck a day for the last five days, and I now regretted the discovery, for they were very good. But our stomachs revolted against them for further indulgence.

I spent a few days at Green Bay, with my friend, John Lawe. In short, I so dawdled away my time that nearly all the traders had arrived, and I did not reach Mackinaw until about the 10th of June. I made a splendid return: 330 buffalo robes, and ten packs of beaver and other furs and peltries. For the robes I was offered, by the commanding officer of the fort, ten dollars each; but I had received a circular from my equipper in Montreal, Touissant Portier, advising me not to sell before his arrival, as he would give the highest market price.

The garrison at Mackinaw was commanded by Lieut. Col. Robert McDouall,* of the Glengaries, with detachments of the Royal veterans, the 81st and Newfoundland regiments, and a sergeant's command of the royal artillery. Being a poor Indian trader, it was, of course, not my business to seek acquaintance with such great men as army officers. However, before the end of a week after my arrival, I was roused up one morning by a gentleman, who informed me that two men in a little bark canoe had just arrived express from Prairie du Chien, with the information that three boat loads of American soldiers had arrived there and were building a fort at that place.

I jumped up, exclaiming, "We must go and take the fort." I dressed, and, on reaching the street, I found all astir, and alive to my views. I said: "All those who are willing to go, give me your names." By sun-down I had more than eighty volunteers, all traders' clerks and *engages*, save one, who had large interests at stake on the Mississippi. It is true our enterprise appeared unwise, and very doubtful of success, for our private means were too limited for a big job of this kind. We had no stores of any description for such an undertaking—no boats, provisions, arms nor ammunition.

When Col. McDouall, in the course of the the day, became aware of my success, he was much pleased, and offered me any military stores he could spare from his scanty stock. This good news inspired our ambition. I was made a captain, mounted a red coat, mustered a couple of epaulettes and an old rusty sword, with a red cock feather adorning my round hat. I was once a captain of pompous dimensions, and lucky it was was for Napoleon and his hosts that they were beyond the reach of *Anderson's Mississippi Volunteers.*

‡ McDouall was a scotchman, entered the British army in 1796, became a lieutenant the following year, a captain in 1804, a major, June 24th, 1813; a lieutenant colonel, July 29th, 1813; a colonel in 1830; and a major general in 1841. He successfully defended Fort Mackinaw, Aug. 4, 1814, when attacked by Col. Croghan and Maj. Holmes. He died at Stranrawer, Scotland, Nov. 15th, 1848.

I was an entire stranger to the commandant, and it would not have been soldier-like in him to have entrusted valuable military stores to a man without credentials. So the command of the expedition was placed nominally under a volunteer officer from lower Canada, Lieut. Col. McKay. Well, the island of Mackinaw was, in fact, under blockade, and in daily expectation of a formidable attack. It would, therefore, have been unwise in the commandant to have granted us very many supplies from his limited stores; but knowing the vast importance of securing the services of the northwestern tribes, and witnessing also the devoted enthusiasm of a jolly band of Canadian voyageurs, embodied in so short a time—and that, too, by an old volunteer of the Revolutionary War, in defense of their country, inspired him with confidence in us, and we were joyfully mustered into service as a part of his command.

Col. McDouall assigned three gun-boats for our use—open vessels which had been constructed at Not-ta-wa-saw-gun the winter before; one having a platform near the prow for a gun. A brass three-pounder, and such other stores as he could prudently spare, also one artillery man for a bombardier, and a worn out soldier from the veteran battalion. Finally we were ready, and started about the 20th of June, 1814, on our expedition against Prairie du Chien, with many a cheer and hearty wish for our success. We made all haste to get out of the reach of the expected enemies' fleet from below. At Green Bay some of the Menomonee tribe volunteered, and following us in their canoes, joined us at Winnebago lake. In fact, when we reached Prairie du Chien, about the 20th of July,* we had a host of followers of all Nations, ages and sexes.

We reached there about noon, and pitched our camp at a convenient place; and I went immediately with a flag of truce, demanding their surrender. This they refused to do. I noticed that they had built houses, and fenced

*It was Sunday, July 17th.

them in with strong oak pickets, ten feet high, with two substantial block-houses, with *chevaux de-frise*, and two gun-boats at anchor near by. On my return to camp, we opened fire on the fort, but to little effect upon their earthed-oak pickets. Their six-pound shot, because of their bad powder, did not reach our camp. Meanwhile, under shelter of the village buildings, the Indians kept up a constant firing at the fort, cutting down their flag, and wounding two of their men through the port-holes. Two of our Indians were also wounded, but slightly. Thus ended the first day.

The next morning we re-opened our fire upon the fort. Our shots hit them, but they did not return the fire. So I ordered the bombardier to run his gun up and attack the gun-boats. Only one returned the fire, the other being empty. They gave shot for shot merrily. At length my gunner cried out: "For God's sake, come and help me!" I ran to him and found all his men had left him, and I said, "what can I do?" "Take the trail of the gun, please, and enable me to lay it," he replied. The next shot from the boat rolled in between the wheels of our gun, being a three pound shot, having taken aim, saying: "Will you return us this ball, sir?" "Yes," we replied; and loading our gun with it shot it off, and with it cut off their gunner's two legs. This shut them up; they cut cable, and I ran to camp, ordering our gun-boats ready to follow and capture their vessel, as it had all their valuable stores on board.

But our commander, Col. McKay, rose from his snooze, came along rubbing his eyes, peremptorily ordering me to desist. One word from me would have caused mutiny. The American boat turned a point about a mile below, and landed to stop leakage and prevent their sinking.

Our cannon shot were now nearly all gone. So I got a quantity of lead from the village, and with a couple of brick made a mould, and cast a number of three-pound leaden balls. Meanwhile the Indians were bringing in balls which the Americans had by their short shots scattered about the prairie without effect. Our stores of provisions were getting low, our ammunition exhausted, but the fort and its contents we came to take, and must have them.

At day light next morning our gun was within 150 yards of the pickets, with a small fire making an iron shot red hot. When they found themselves in a fair way to be burnt out, they surrendered. We took sixty-five prisoners, several iron guns, a small quantity of pork, flour, etc., together with a quantity of whisky. The casks containing the liquor, I stove in, fearing the Indians might get it. As they were thirsting for the blood of their enemies, and required some tact to keep their hands off from the American prisoners, we could not trust any of them inside the fort. The American empty boat was fitted up, and next morning at day light, the prisoners were on their way to St. Louis, on parole; escorted by one of our lieutenants, (Brisbois) for a short distance.

Now began the novel and much needed instruction as to guard-mounting, etc. The bombardier and the old veteran were the only two persons in the whole batch that had any correct knowledge of the science of war. Our commander, an old northwestern, boiling inside and roasting outside, for the thermometer stood at ninety-eight in the shade, constantly cursing and blaspheming all above and below, now took a bark canoe, with four men, and after giving his own name, McKay, to the fort, and transferring the command to me, took his leave to the joy of all concerned.

I am now, on a smaller scale, a Wellington, commanding all around me. Some of the Indians in this quarter had been induced by exaggerated stories from the enemy, to surrender the Royal George medals which they had received with other tokens of friendship from Gen. Haldimand, Lord Dorchester and other prominent commanders in the early days of Quebec, for those of the American eagle. However, they soon

returned to their old flag, with the exception of one Sioux Chief, Hoo-pah En-du-tah, or Red Wing, who was the head of a large band, and a numerous family connection. He was famed, too, as a great prognosticator. After my repeatedly pressing the subject, he came to me one morning; and after the usual smoke, he took my hand. Then standing up, he addressed me by my Sioux name, saying:

"We-yo-te-hun, or Meridian Sun, I have had another dream. You know all the blood in my heart is English; but I will not now fight the Big Knives (Americans). I have given to you my band, and my children. They, with all the other Indians, are your soldiers, and will fight for you; but Red Wing will not raise his war-club. I saw the future in my dreams three times." He then took his seat, having evidently spoken in opposition to his outward man.

After another smoke, I said: "Will you tell me your reasons for your fixed and strange determination?"

"Its no use," he said; "I have told you I will not now fight the Big Knives."

"Very well," I replied, "but I would like to know the reason for such action."

"I cannot and will not change my thoughts," answered Red Wing.

"Well, tell me why, and I'll say no more."

"You tell me," said the chief, "that the lion on this medal is the most powerful of all animals. I have never seen one, but I believe what you say. This lion, like our tiger, sleeps all day; but the eagle, who is the most powerful of birds, only sleeps at night; in the day time he flies about everywhere, and sees all on the ground. He will light on a tree over the lion, and they will scold at each other for a while; but they will finally make up and be friends, and smoke the pipe of peace. The lion will then go home and leave us Indians with our foes. That is the reason for not taking up my war club. Your enemies will believe me when I speak good words to them." And so things turned out; we left them to care for themselves.

I had now about 5,000 Indians at my command, and the least expensive troops known, for they fed and clothed themselves. I had now to look around, determine upon the means for defense, and drill the volunteers to the exercise of small arms. I had not the means, nor under existing circumstances would it be of any use, beyond guard-mounting, etc. If a force should be sent against us, it must be by water, and our dependence would rest on our artillery. I, therefore, selected the best men for the purpose. I, myself, at the head, and directing my bombardier to select two iron three-pound field pieces, and placing myself under his command, the drilling began. Our hearts were in the work. The words of command were few, the manœuvering for our purpose was simple. Twice a day, and four hours each time, under a broiling sun, was no boy's play. At the end of a week, half of the garrison were well able to manage the guns, but needed full practice, which I could not allow, as our stores were small. To keep up the excitement, we had sham fights twice a week, scampering over the prairie like so many real combatants.

In September, a Sauk Indian courier arrived, by a short cut across the country from Rock River, informing me that eleven gun-boats had been seen some distance below that stream, making slow progress up the Mississippi, supposed to be designed for the re-capture of Prairie du Chien. I immediately got ready Capt. Graham and six sturdy volunteers, in two large wooden canoes, with a one-pound swivel, and some ammunition for the famous Black Hawk, who, with his warriors, was at the place of rendezvous, at the confluence of the Rock and Mississippi rivers. There for about four miles, is a very strong current, the navigable channel is narrow and very serpentine.

The obstruction at this point causes the water to flow about two feet deep, over a gravel

beach; and if the boatmen are not very careful, the current will force the boat upon this treacherous gravel bank, and give no small trouble to get it again into the proper channel. My orders, therefore, to Capt. Graham were, to remove the Indians out of sight, and leave nothing that could alarm the Americans, until they should be well upon the difficult part of the rapid; then a single shot would throw them into confusion, when they could not well escape.

Capt. Graham reached the place in time to effect his arrangements. The enemy arrived at the foot of the rapids too late in the day to undertake to ascend the difficult channel. They accordingly anchored in the stream, and thus my plan was thwarted. A young Indian, whose brother had been killed by the enemy a few days before, took the first chance which offered for revenge. He made his way at night to one of the gun-boats, and drove his lance through one of the sentries, killing him on the spot, and then making his escape, singing his war song, and thus arousing friends and foes.

The next morning the American commodore had at the mast head of his vessel, the ominous words, "*No Quarters.*" So our swivel began to play upon them; they took the alarm, cut their cables, and the whole fleet was soon on its back track for St. Louis.

It was necessary to make extensive repairs at Fort McKay to render our position comfortable for the winter. Provisions were to be previously supplied by the traders and farmers; the meat rations of game and fish. I had no military chest; but my credit was unbounded. I did not know anything about the mode of keeping army accounts, nor was I practiced in military regulations. I, therefore, reported these circumstances, and at the same time, recommended the bombardier, who had contributed so much to our success, for promotion. I sent off an express, in a light canoe, with this report, addressed to Lieut. Col. Robert McDouall, commanding at Mackinaw and its dependencies. Within a month, I received a very satisfactory reply; Capt. Bulger, of the Newfoundland regiment, was sent to relieve me in the command; and James Keating, late bombardier, was promoted to Fort Adjutant, and a contractor was appointed to supply rations.

Capt. Bulger set to work, and in a very few days had all my accounts properly prepared; and though he commanded the garrison, I was the prime mover of all. Everything passed off with much glee; the officers and traders gave balls at least three times a week, until about the latter part of December, 1814, when a melancholy event transpired. The contractor's meat stores were low, and he requested me to spare him two of my interpreters to go about fifteen or twenty miles to a Sioux camp for venison. They procured more meat than the two could carry, when an Indian volunteered to transport the surplus. One of the interpreters was a Canadian, the other a half-breed. The latter said to his comrade: "We must beware of this fellow, for he is a very treacherous Indian." The Canadian replied, while putting a second ball in his gun: "If he makes any fuss, he'll get these two balls to keep him quiet." They started with their loads, having but the one gun, which was carefully carried by its owner, the Canadian.

Night came on, and they encamped about eight miles from the fort. All this time the suspected Indian had been very good in his behavior; and in preparing their bed, he quite won their confidence, carefully drying their socks and moccasins, and carrying straw for their bed. The two interpreters lay down under the same covering, with the gun at their heads, leaning against a tree. They were soon sound alseep. Not so the deceitful Indian; for so soon as he found them unconscious, he quietly took their gun and shot them both. The Canadian, who was next to him, was instantly killed; and one of the balls passing through him, entered the half-breed just above

the navel. Not feeling his wound, he jumped up; but the murderer and gun were gone. Finding his companion dead, and that he himself was wounded, he covered up the corpse and started for the fort, which he reached about 8 o'clock in the morning, quite faint from the loss of blood.

Immediately after the arrival of the wounded man, I dispatched a party of volunteers for the murderer; but he had fled. Failing to find the guilty outlaw, they apprehended the chief of the village (Le Corbeau Francois), who was an uncle of the escaped culprit, brought him to Prairie du Chien, and he was locked up in the Black Hole of the fort. The next day, on being informed that if the murderer was not immediately produced, he would be shot instead, he sent off a message to his band, explaining to his people the alternative. Search was made and the guilty fellow found in another tribe, a hundred miles away, and he was brought to the fort after only eight days absence. The chief was forthwith released from confinement, and his nephew put in his place, where he remained a couple of days. Capt. Bulger was ignorant of Indian character, and Col. Diajon, a nobody, wished to save the prisoner on the ground, that in case he should be executed, it would turn all the Indians against us; while I, on the contrary, insisted that it would produce a feeling of respect, and it so resulted. I believe *fear*, among Indians, to be a means of securing their friendship. The culprit was shot as he deserved.

The commandant ordered a court-martial to try the prisoner. The wounded interpreter identified the murderer. The old chief said, "kill him; he is a bad man, and has murdered two Indians of his own family." The prisoner confessed his crime, saying his object in shooting them was to secure the gun. The court brought in the prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to be shot. Capt. Bulger approved the sentence, and ordered his execution the next day at 10 o'clock, when the sentence was carried into effect—his death instantly followed the crack of the volley of rifles. Indians, whites, and all appeared satisfied at the result. The wounded interpreter died in my arms a few days after.

All was now quiet, until the latter end of May, 1815, when we received news of peace, and orders to evacuate the post, and return with all haste to Mackinaw. Capt. Bulger, who was heartily tired of the secluded situation, was off within two hours, leaving me to settle the accounts, and bring away the Volunteers. At 12 o'clock the next day, all was in readiness, and I was about getting on board, when a batteau full of Sauk Indians, with Black Hawk at their head, was seen coming up the river, and near at hand. After landing, and the usual formal smoke, I informed them of the conclusion of peace, and that they must now bury their war clubs, and be good friends with the Big Knives—Americans. The whole-hearted man and unflinching warrior, Black Hawk, cried like a child, saying our Great Mother, Great Britain, has thus concluded, and farther talk is useless. I gave them some ammunition, provisions, with a hearty shake of the hand, and we parted sorrowfully.

At Green Bay, I met dispatches from Col. McDouall, directing me to institute an inquiry to ascertain if any, and what, public accounts remained unpaid at that place. This detained me for some time; I, however, reached Mackinaw in July. Not many days after my arrival, I received orders to return to the Mississippi with three batteaux, loaded with Indian goods for distribution among the Indians, and to formally announce to them the conclusion of peace.

I did not return from this mission until September, when I found Mackinaw had been given up to the Americans; and Col. McDouall had taken up a position on Drummond Island, within our own limits, and which was an entire bush—never a stick had been cut there. I arrived there on the 15th September, 1815. In a few

days my volunteers were paid off, and I was ordered by Mr. Askin, of the Indian department, to take charge of the new station, and all its stores. There was no houses, and every mechanic and laborer was engaged in erecting barracks and store-houses for the troops, consisting of detachments of artillery and engineers, two companies of the 37th regiment, and also for the commissariat, field train, ordnance, store-keepers, medical and Indian departments —the latter numbering three officers, four interpreters, one doctor, and a black-smith.

Each one had to prepare, as best he could, winter quarters for himself. Not being able to provide a shelter for my use without an effort, I took off my coat and went to work; my interpreter coming to my aid, I soon had a house. A fire had passed through the bush, and the logs at hand were all blackened, so it became necessary to frequently wash our hands and faces. My building was 24x18 feet in size, six feet and six inches between the upper and lower stories, spaces between logs filled with chinks and clay, cedar bark roof, with a clay chimney. Though of novel construction, it was comfortable, and received the dignified name of "*Pottawatamie Hall*" from Col. McDouall.

I divided my house into three apartments, two bed rooms, and a drawing room, the latter serving also for my office and dining room. One of the bed-rooms, I invited Mr. Keating to occupy. My furniture consisted of a small pine table, three chairs, a bench, and a little cupboard in one corner, in which were three cups and saucers, and three plates, with knives, forks and spoons to match. A small kitchen was located outside, in which a big fat soldier, our servant, prepared our breakfast and blackened our boots. As we dined with the other officers of the mess, my servant had no pastry to cook. Thus we were settled for the winter.

Late in the fall two schooners arrived from the naval depot at Kingston, to winter here—one commanded by Lieut. Adam Gordon, afterwards the "Laird of Kenmure," the other by Lieut. Keane, afterwards an admiral. In the winter they got lonely on board and solicited from me permission to stretch their hammocks in my drawing room, which was freely granted. A jolly and comfortable winter passed off, and spring opened to the joy of all, bringing us six months' news from the civilized world. The issue of Indian presents commences in June, and, at the end of October, I had made issues to 5,000 Indians from all points of the compass, including the Mississippi and Red river countries.

Col. McDouall and the 37th were relieved by a detachment of the 71st, under Maj. Howard, a tyrant. It had been a custom to give as presents to the Indians a large amount of silver ornaments, which I considered as a kind of luxury, not adding to the comfort of those people, but materially increasing the expense of the King's bounty. I, therefore, consulted with the major on the subject—for the Indian department to which I was attached was still under military rule; and, at my request, he issued a garrison order directing me to confine my estimate for the supply of Indian presents, for the ensuing year, to such articles only as would prove a comfort to them, and not a luxury. This little job proved to be a big saving; for I have been told that, at this very time, there were 1,500 pounds of these silver ornaments ready for distribution at the Niagara depot. But their issue was forbidden. I have no good words to say for Maj. Howard, so I leave him in silence, except to add that he was peremptorily ordered to headquarters, on the opening of navigation, to be court-martialed.

Col. Maule, of the 100th regiment, now took command, accompanied by his wife and her sister, Miss Belle Jarvis, together with a jolly batch of officers. We now began to assume the rank of civilized life. "Pottawatamie Hall" being inconveniently situated for my Indian business, I erected a building rather more commodious. About this time Miss Hamilton and Miss Upsher arrived—the former a

daughter of Capt. Hamilton, of the regiment, and grand-daughter of Dr. Mitchell, surgeon-general of the Indian department; while the other young lady was the daughter of Capt. Upsher. They were cousins, and were living with Dr. Mitchell. Miss Hamilton was a well educated and very pious young lady.

During the winter our almost daily amusement was snow-shoe walking, and in the evening, tea-ing somewhere, for the whole garrison was living like one happy family, each seeking the others' comfort. A growing preference for each other's society became evident between Miss Hamilton and myself; and the next cutter drive, for I kept a horse, settled the matter. On the 20th of February, 1820, I was married to Elizabeth Ann Hamilton, daughter of the late Capt. James Mathew Hamilton, of the army, her grandfather, Dr. Mitchell, who was a magistrate, performing the service from the Church of England's prayer book; and Mr. George Mitchell was at the same time married to Miss Harriet Upsher. My marriage is duly recorded in the register's office at Sandwich, Upper Canada.

Maj. James Winnett, of the 68th regiment, was at this time in command of the garrison. It had up to this period been a rule in the Indian department to accept from the Indians presents of maple sugar, corn, mats, etc., repaying them amply from the Indian store. These presents from the Indians were intended to be converted into money and placed to the credit of the department, but this was never done. Who profited by these operations is not my business to state. In the first year of my agency I shipped 600 or 800 pounds of sugar to the headquarters of the Indian department, supposing it would be received and disposed of for the benefit of that department; but its receipt was never acknowledged. Consulting Maj. Winnett on the subject, he directed me to turn over all such articles as I had in store to the commissariat of the garrison, and not in future receive presents—practically exchanging commodities with the Indians. Thus a few more thousands of savings were added to the silver ornaments.

Prior to this I had been appointed a magistrate, collector of customs, postmaster and issuer of licences, giving me plenty to do. I must now return to my new order of things. It was delightful to have one so much beloved to handle the old teapot and assist digestion by pleasant chit-chat. From the moment of our union we had perfect confidence in each other, and to the day of my precious wife's death, at Coburg, Upper Canada, June 30, 1858, not a thought had originated in one's mind that was not communicated to the other.

My wife instructed me in religious matters, and induced me to establish family worship. From a place of Sunday resort to while away time, on the part of the officers, our home became a place of prayer; and at my companion's suggestion, I read, on Sundays, the morning church service and one of Burder's, or of such other sermons as we could get. During the twelve years we were at Drummond Island, we received only four short visits from Protestant clergymen; one from Rev. Mr. Short, of the Church of England, from Amherstburg, and three from the Rev. Mr. Ferry, a Presbyterian missionary, from Mackinaw. Most of the officers, with their wives, attended services every Sunday. Not only did we continue these regular Sabbath services, but commenced to instruct the Indians in religious duties; and, though my explanations of Scripture were imperfectly imparted, yet they became so interested that they would come a distance of nine miles to hear my evening readings.

Now my wife insisted on my sending for my two little Sioux children. Though she had one of her own, she felt bound to care for the others. The boy was sent to Sandwich, where he received a good English education; then kept store for sometime at Coldwater, Canada; but thinking he could do better, he went to St. Louis, where he sickened and died of fever. The

girl was educated in the United States, and in 1833 was a teacher in our school at Coldwater, where she married a highly respectable English gentleman named Andrew Robertson. She being entitled to what was called by the Americans a "Sioux land claim," it was thought by Mr. Robertson worth looking after; so they went to St. Paul, where, after a few years, he died, leaving his wife and three children, all boys, who, I am informed, are doing well.

In the fall of 1828 I had occasion to visit Toronto, accompanied by the old Fort Adjutant Keating;* and shortly after the Indian agency was removed from Drummond Island to Penetanguishine, some ninety or 100 miles nearly north of Toronto.†

THOMAS G. ANDERSON.

Thomas Gummersall Anderson was born at Sorel, in Lower Canada, Nov. 12, 1779. His father, Samuel Anderson, at the commencement of the American Revolution, sympathizing with the mother country, received a commission in the King's Royal Regiment, of New York, was wounded at Bunker Hill, and subsequently served under Sir John Johnson. Settling in Cornwall, Upper Canada, after the war, he held many local offices, and died in 1832 at the venerable age of ninety-seven years.

When the son, Thomas, was but a mere child, the father procured for him a commission as a cadet in his father's company, in the King's Royal Regiment. At the age of fifteen he became a clerk, in 1795, in the store of Thomas Markland, in Kingston, remaining with him five years, when he resolved, as he expressed it, to enter upon the "battle of life" in the wild, and almost trackless forests of the great northwest.

After the removal of the Indian agency from Drummond Island to Penetanguishine and that vicinity in November, 1828, Capt. Anderson continued in the employ of his government, attending to the wants of the Indians of his charge, providing comfortable houses for their use, and the necessary means of education and civilization. In 1836 the plan of settling the Indians in that part of Canada, on the great Manitoulin Island on the northern border of Lake Huron, was inaugurated; and Capt. Anderson was placed in charge of the establishment, where he remained until 1845, when he was appointed visiting superintendent of Indian affairs and payer of annuities, which he held until June 30, 1858; thus serving fifty-eight years on the frontiers as a trader and in the Indian department.

His experiences in Indian life were large and various. He thoroughly studied the Indian character, treating the red men with kindness when leniency was the wiser course, and with severity when the occasion demanded it. It is related of him, that one day while lying in his tent, a drunken Indian came in uninvited, and bending over him, knife in hand, made several pretended stabs at the prostrate trader; and would have done so in good earnest had not the captain, with his customary coolness and knowledge of the Indian character, assumed the semblance of sleep, and refrained from making the slightest movement. After amusing himself in this way for several minutes, the Indian left; when Capt. Anderson called to his men to inquire of the fellow what he wanted? "Rum," was the reply. Anderson asked for a bottle, and on its being handed to him, knocked the Indian down with it, gave him a sound beating, and never saw him again.

While Capt. Anderson was himself a member of the Church of England, yet in the dis-

* This brave man, James Keating, deserves special notice. He was born in the parish of Templeshort, county of Wexford, Ireland, in 1786. His father was a country squire, and was murdered at an early period. The son, at eighteen, joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery, in 1804, under Col. John Smith; and received a medal for his good services at Martinique. In 1814 he had the command of a volunteer battery on the Prairie du Chien expedition, and distinguished himself in an especial manner. In 1815 he was promoted to a lieutenancy, and was made fort adjutant at St. Joseph's; and was then stationed at Drummond Island till it was given up to the American government, then at Amherstburg, and finally at Penetanguishine. He was here promoted to the rank of captain and adjutant in charge of that garrison till his death, in 1849, at the age of sixty-three. His son, bearing the same name, resides at Oil City, Canada.

† The notes to the foregoing narrative are from the pen of L. C. Draper, corresponding secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

charge of his duties as Indian superintendent, he uniformly respected alike the opinions and labors of Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Catholic missionaries. The welfare, spiritually and temporarily, of the red man, appeared to be his controlling desire, from his engagement in the service of the Indian department to the time of his death. He frequently complained of what he considered the injustice done the Indians by the British government; and the neglect of them by the Church of his fathers; to him causes of great anxiety. He was universally respected by the Indians under his supervision, and received from them many tokens of their affectionate regard. He was in every sense a good man. His death occurred at Port Hope, on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, Feb. 16, 1875, in the ninety-sixth year of his age, leaving two daughters and a son; the latter, Rev. G. A. Anderson, of Penetanguishine, Ontario.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE TOWN OF BERGEN.

This territory is located in the western part of Vernon county, and is bounded on the north by the county of La Crosse; on the east by the towns of Hamburg and Harmony; on the south by the town of Genoa, and on the west by the Mississippi river. The town comprises forty-five full congressional sections of land, and nine parts of sections, containing altogether about 30,000 acres.

The Mississippi river washes the western line of the town, and along its entire length, and inland for two or three miles. Innumerable sloughs and water courses are seen, all finding an outlet in the mighty "Father of waters." These sloughs are called Coon, Mormon, Middle, etc., and some are navigable, as Warner's Landing is located on one of the larger ones, just north of Bergen postoffice. The Coon river enters the town on the northeast quarter of section 25, and takes a westerly course through sections 26, 27, 28 and 33, emptying into Coon slough on section 32. The northeastern and southeastern portions of the town are not as well supplied with water courses as the central and western parts, but furnishes to the settlers an abundant supply of good spring water.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

In 1852 two natives of Norway, coming to this western country, met by chance, and both concluded to locate in what is now the town of Bergen. Halver Jorgenson selected his future home on the south side of Coon river, on section 26, and has since resided there. The other, Andrew Emberson, settled on section 33, where he now lives.

They were followed the same year by Christian Allison, also a native of Norway, who located on section 13, and lived there till his death, in 1868.

In 1853 there were three new-comers in the town, all natives of Norway. Peter Olson settled on section 14, where he died in 1873; William Nelson located on section 26 and died some years ago; John Peterson made his home on section 22, where he still resides.

A year later (1854), S. C. Stetson and family, natives of Otsego Co., N. Y., located on section 11, town 13, range 7 west—in the southern portion of the town, where Mr. Stetson was engaged in farming until 1880, the date of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Stetson were the parents of one child—Huldah—who is now postmistress at the Rest postoffice.

Great Britain also furnished a settler in 1855. Samuel Sims, who resides on section 10, was born in Derbyshire, England, in 1821. In 1847, when he had arrived at the age of manhood, he came to the United States and first settled in New York. In 1851 he went to New Jersey; and in 1853 he went to Pennsylvania, and in 1855 came to the town of Harmony, entering eighty acres of land on section 6. In 1863 Mr. Sims enlisted in the United States navy, and was assigned to duty on the gunboat *Shamrock*, where he served until his discharge in 1864. He was married in 1848 to Mary Egal. Three children were given them—Elizabeth, wife of Samuel McKown, John W., who mar-

ried Miss Estella Henry, and Theodore. Mrs. Sims departed this life May 7, 1883, since which time Mr. Sims has made his home with his son, John W.

Joel F. Outcelt settled in the town in 1855, on sections 22 and 23, town 13, range 7. In 1868 he moved to the town of Harmony.

Engrebret Engh made a settlement in the same year.

Engrebret Engh, who located here in 1855, was born in Norway in 1817. He came to the United States in 1853, and first settled in the eastern part of this State, In 1855 he came to Vernon county with his family and purchased from the government a farm of forty acres, which he has since increased to 120 acres, located on sections 26 and 27. He devotes the greater part of his time to his farm, and takes especial pride in the raising of good grain. In 1848 he married Martha Hanson, and four children have been born to them—Isaac, who married Thea Rorerud, and is a clerk in the postoffice at La Crosse; Hagbarth, who is a minister by profession. He graduated from Luther College, at Decorah, Iowa, in 1878; from the University of Christiana, in Norway in 1882, and from Luther Seminary, Madison, Wis., in 1883. In 1884 he will take charge of the Lutheran church, at Portland, Oregon. John M. married Lena Rindal, and at present is treasurer of the town of Bergen. Emma is the fourth and youngest child.

Austria followed in the footsteps of Norway, and in 1856 gave to Vernon county a sturdy pioneer. Frank Parsch, one of the most prosperous farmers in the town of Bergen, was born in Austria, in 1831. In 1856 he came to America, and the same year followed the tide of emigration to Wisconsin. He came into Vernon county and bought a farm of eighty acres on section 11, which he has since increased to 100 acres. Mr. Parsch is an intelligent and enterprising citizen, and for eight continuous years was selected by his neighbors and friends to serve them in the capacity of town treasurer. He was married in 1861 to Frances Heikel. Six children have been sent to bless this union —Amelia, wife of Peter Graw; Charles, Gustave, Henry, Anna and John.

Among the settlers of 1856 was A. Davis, who came from Columbia county and located on section 14, town 13, range 7, where he was still living in 1883.

In 1860 and 1861 several new comers made their appearance, and the following named settlers have made energetic farmers and highly respected citizens:

Joseph Lisso, who resides on section 14, was born in 1846, in Germany, and when ten years of age his parents came to the United States, and first settled at Cleveland, Ohio, where they remained but two years. In 1858 they removed to LaCrosse, Wis., where they remained two years, and then came to Vernon county and settled on section 14, of Bergen town, where the father entered 120 acres of land. The father died a few years later, and the farm was given to Joseph, which he has increased to 200 acres. Mr. Lisso was married, in 1869, to Elizabeth Dengeline, by whom he has four children—Elizabeth, Mary, Anna and Emma. Mr. Lisso's mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Dettove, are now residing with him. Mr. Lisso is one of the wide awake, enterprising and accommodating farmers of Bergen town.

John Zink, a prominent German farmer, of the town of Bergen, was born in Germany in 1843. He received a very fair education, and in 1861 emigrated to the United States, and to this town in the same year. He entered forty acres of land on section 33, but left his farm in 1864 to join the 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served till the close of the Rebellion, when he received an honorable discharge. He returned home and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. His farm has been increased to 160 acres and he has lately erected thereon a commodious and substantial dwelling house, at a cost of about $1,500. Mr. Zink was united in marriage, in 1863, to

Mary Kissell, of Vernon county. Nine children were born to them—John, Joe, Sarah, Mary, George, Rhoda, Frank, Charles and Anna. Mrs. Zink departed this life in 1882.

Reinhold Bay, who resides on section 23, was born in Prussia, in 1838. In 1861, when but twenty-three years of age, he came to America, and the westward tide bore him to the State of Wisconsin. He founded a new home in the town of Bergen, where he purchased 117 acres of land. This has been increased to 177 acres, and Mr. Bay is known as one of the leading farmers of this town. In 1872 he was elected to the office of school clerk, and at present is clerk of Bergen town. In 1864 he married Huldah Will, and the result of this union has been the birth of ten children—Emil, August, Reinhold, Matilda, Emma, Theodore, Gustave, Ida, Bertha, and Albert.

FIRST THINGS.

The first settlers were Halver Jorgenson and Andrew Emberson, who located in 1852.

The first school was taught on section 12, by Polly Sprague.

The first marriage was Peter Olson to Martha Olson, in 1854, Rev. Sylbrant performing the ceremony.

The first person that died was Ellen, daughter of Christian and Caroline Olson.

The first school house was built on section 12, in 1859.

The first religious services were held at Britt's landing in 1857, by Revs. Smith and Nuzum.

The first postoffice was at Bergen; established in 1856.

ORGANIC.

In 1853 the board of county commissioners granted permission to organize a new town, to be known as the town of Bergen, nine miles long, from north to south, and six miles wide at its widest part, from east to west. The first election was held at the residence of John Warner, and the following officers were chosen conduct the affairs of the new town for the ensuing year: Chairman, Orin Calkins; assistants, Philander Bartlett and Ransom Burnett; clerk, J. P. Harkness; superintendent of schools, John Raywalt; assessor, Lafayette Everson. The present officers of the town are as follows: Chairman of the board of supervisors, Wesley Pulver; assistants, Mathias Bryn and Peter Grow; clerk, Reinold Bay; treasurer, John Engh; assessor, Torger Olson.

POSTOFFICES.

There are located in the town of Bergen, three postoffices.

Bergen postoffice was located, in 1856, on section 4 and John Warner was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by the present postmaster, John Cummings.

The second office established was on section 21, and called Stoddard. Mr. Bochee was the first postmaster, and subsequently Peter Wandenskie, the present incumbent.

Rest postoffiee was first opened in 1873, on section 11, and S. E. Stetson was made postmaster. At his death his daughter Huldah was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The settlers of the town of Bergen are a steady, industrious and unassuming class of citizens, consequently the history of the town is as yet of a rather limited character. It will increase, both in volume and interest in the years to come.

RELIGIOUS.

In 1883 there were two religious societies within the town of Bergen—the Methodist Episcopal and German Lutheran. The former was organized by a class of twelve members, in 1860, and have always held their services at the Dudley school house, on section 25.

The German Lutheran Church was organized in 1867 by Rev. Barts, who was succeeded by Rev. Rhine, and the latter by Rev. Ording, the present pastor. Some twenty members constituted the organizing congregation, and since then the membership has been increased to thirty-five.

EDUCATIONAL.

There are six school houses in the town of Bergen, with an aggregate valuation of $1,325. About 356 children attend these schools.

CEMETERIES.

The oldest burying ground in the town is the one in the southwest part of the town, near the German church, on section 16. There are also several small private cemeteries throughout the the town.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANA.

This town takes its name from the capital of Norway, its first settler being of that nationality. It is situated on the north line of Vernon county, and comprises congressional township 14, range 4. It is bounded on the north by LaCrosse county, on the east by the town of Clinton, on the south by the town of Viroqua, and on the west by the town of Coon.

The population of this town is largely Norwegian, and in 1883 it contained some of the choicest farms within the county. There is perhaps more tillable land in Christiana than almost any other in the northern tier of towns in the county.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in this town was made in September, 1848, by Hans Olson Libakken, who with his family located on the southwest quarter of section 35.

About the same time or a little later, an American named Carrier settled on sections 22 and 27, where he took up State lands. He lived there but a short time, but did a small amount of breaking and then sold out to a Norwegian and moved from the town.

In 1849 and 1850 a large number of settlers located in this town. Ole Syverson came in 1849, and the following spring settled on the northeast quarter of section 35. Soon after he sold out to John Michelet and purchased other land on section 34, where he lived for a time, and then bought the forty acres where the village of Westby is now situated, and remained there till his death.

Lars Christopherson was another settler of 1849; he located on section 35, which land he afterwards exchanged for 160 acres on section 34. He had been a soldier of the Mexican War; he was living in 1883 at Bloomingdale, Vernon county.

Evan Peterson came the same year and settled on section 36, where some years afterwards he died.

Ole Thorstenson also settled in 1849 on section 30. He was born in Norway in 1785, and died a few years after coming to this town. His wife was born in March, 1788; died Aug. 27, 1863. Their son, Henry O. Gulord, in 1883, was living on the land claimed by his father.

Hans K. Larson came in 1849 and claimed land on sections 22, 23, 26 and 27; his tract was made up of forty acres from each section. His final purchase, however, was confined to eighty acres, forty on section 22 and forty on section 26. In 1883 he was comfortably surrounded at his home on section 22.

John Michelet settled on section 35 in June, 1850. Another early settler was Hans K. Ramsrud, who located on section 28.

John Olson Bergum settled on section 33 in the spring of 1850, and was a resident of the same place in 1883.

Lars H. Galstad came the same year, locating on section 34. Among other settlers of 1850 were Iver P. Hegge, who settled on section 29 with his father, Peter Olson and Ingebreth Homsted, who located on section 11. He was a prominent and well-known citizen, respected

by all his neighbors. He died about 1875, quite suddenly.

In 1851 Ingebreth Homstad settled on section 11. He was a native of Norway, but came to this vicinity from Dane Co., Wis. He remained on this section till his death. His sons were yet occupying it in 1884.

Clement Bergh located the same year on section 35, where he resided till his death.

Ole Running, another settler of 1851, settled on section 27, from there moved to Viroqua, and still later left the county and in a short time died.

Lars O. Olson settled on section 23 in 1857. He was born in Norway in 1830; came to America with his two brothers.

EARLY EVENTS.

The first school house in the town was built on section 35, in 1851. During this year the first term of school was also taught.

The first tavern for the accomodation of travelers was the residence of Engebreth Homstad, on section 11, who settled there in 1851. This was a popular stopping place for travelers for many years. Mr. Homstad died March 14, 1879.

The first death known in the town was that of a man named Ole Anderson, a non-resident who was on his way from Dane county to the Black River lumber region. He got as far as the house of a German settler near the present village of Westby, and was unable to proceed further. After a few days painful illness he died. This was about the middle of September, 1849. He was buried on the farm where he died. The deceased had a family living in Dane county.

The first white child born in the town was Brown Olson, a son of Hans and Caroline Olson, who were the first settlers of the town. This birth occurred March 30, 1850. In 1884 he was living on the same farm on which he was born.

The parties to the first marriage were John Clemenson and Martha Ingebrethson.. They were married in 1851.

The first religious services were held by the early Norwegian settlers, at private houses.

The following incident illustrative of pioneer hardship, is given in the language of the writer, Hans Nelson, of Westby, Christiana town:

"In 1849, there being no grist mill nearer than Prairie du Chien, the settlers had to go to that place for their milling and to purchase their flour. Upon one occasion, I remember T. Unseth went to Prairie du Chien to buy flour and other necessaries of life; but unfortunately the store keeper made a grand mistake and loaded up a barrel of white sugar instead of a barrel of flour. When Mr. Unseth got home his daughter at once climbed up into her fathers wagon to open the supposed flour barrel, the family being entirely out of any kind of bread stuff, at the time. But upon her taking out the head of the barrel, what was the surprise at finding the contents to be white sugar, instead of flour. Imagine the situation! No flour in the house—white sugar, however good in its place, would not make bread. The woman then began to cry as she thought of their con dition—fifty miles away from a mill and not a morsel of bread to eat.

"What was to be done? The only way was to thresh some grain out of the stalk. And how was this to be done, unaided by machinery? Why they simply made a round ring twenty-five feet across on the ground and let oxen tread it out, in the good old fashioned way! After "threshing," came the grinding. This was not by the modern "roller process," but by turning an *old country* coffee mill.

"There were many of the settlers of that year who lived on salt and potatoes, literally speaking too."

ORGANIC.

In 1855, the territory now constituting the towns of Clinton and Christiana were set off from the town of Viroqua, by the county board of Bad Ax county. To this territory was given the name of Christiana. In 1856 this

territory was divided into the present towns of Christiana and Clinton.

The first election in the present town of Christiana was held at the house of Nels Hanson Napurd, on section 33, April 7, 1856. The following were the officers elected: J. R. Bjorseth, (chairman), David Wilt and Hendrick Johnson, supervisors. Lars Christopherson was elected town clerk, but did not except the office and William McKnight was appointed in his stead. Hendrick Johnson was elected assessor; no other town officers are recorded as being elected at that date.

The town officers for 1883 were: Timothy Madden, chairman; Jacob Olson and Ole Bentson, supervisors; A. J. Moen, clerk; E. C. Bratlie, assessor; Julius Johnson, treasurer.

Andrew J. Moen, the present town clerk of Christiana, resides on section 33, where he settled in January, 1869. He was born in Norway in 1844; came to the United States in 1867. He lived in Minnesota two years, coming here from that State. His father, who came to Vernon county, several years later, now lives in the town of Coon.

Timothy Madden resides on section 15. He is the present chairman of the town board. He came to the town in 1855, was born in the city of New York, in 1818, of Irish parentage. Mr. Madden came to Wisconsin in 1852; spent some time in the pinery regions and came to this town in 1858.

POSTOFFICES.

In 1884 the town was accommodated by three postoffices, Westby and Newry, on section 14, and Lovass on section 8. The first postoffice in the town was established in 1857, and was called Coon Prairie. The first postmaster was George Smith, who had the office on section 5, town 13, range 4. It was then removed to the house of John Benson, on the same section, and subsequently removed to the house of Mr. Whittaker. It was then moved to across the town line into Christiana and kept at the house of Robert Lange. Later it vibrated across the line from one town to another, until the establishment of the postoffice at Westby, in 1879, when the Coon Prairie office was discontinued. The first postmaster at Westby was Andrew Johnson, who was shortly succeeded by Nicholas Nelson, who still held the office in 1884.

Newry postoffice was established in 1868. This office was first kept by Peter Bredle, at his house on section 11. The second postmaster was Frank Delle, who kept the office at his store on section 14. In 1884 the office was kept by Christopher Christopherson, who received his appointment in the spring of 1872.

Lovass postoffice is so called from Jacob Lovass, the first settler of that part of the town. It was established, March 15, 1875, when Christian Olson was appointed postmaster and was still in charge in 1884. Mr. Olson keeps a small general store at this point, which is located on section 8.

MILL.

The only mill in the town of Christiana is a saw mill built in 1862, on the south branch of Coon creek, on section 8. It was erected by Iver A. Amunson. The object in view, by the builder of this saw mill, was to cut lumber from the fine hard wood found in this section of the county. After running a few years it was taken down and replaced by one of a greater capacity, which was propelled by steam power. In 1883 this was removed to the northeast corner of section 7.

EDUCATIONAL.

The advantages for schooling in this town have always been fair, though perhaps below the average town of the county.

The first school was taught in 1851 in a building erected that year on section 35. It was 22x26 feet and at the time it was built was among the best in the county. A few years later this building was burned.

In 1884 there were seven school houses in the town, located in seven sub-districts.

In district No. 1 the population are nearly all Norwegians who send their children to school more in the winter season than in the summer. This district affords a fair school building, though quite small.

In district No. 2 about the same interest is manifested and also nearly the same advantages given in way of school property.

In district No. 3 the school population is made up largely of Germans, Irish and Norwegians; the latter nationality being in the majority, however. Much interest has been manifested in school matters.

Timothy Madden, clerk of the school district, has held the office for many years, during which time he has ever looked after the well being of the schools. The school house in this district is a large, well-planned frame structure, provided with the best improved seats, maps, charts, etc.

District No. 4 is situated near Lovass post-office. Jacob Olson is the leading man in school matters here. The school building is not first-class, but is rather an index of by-gone days, when the common school was slighted more than it is now-a-days. Notwithstanding this difficulty the patrons, who are nearly all Norwegians, evince a deep interest in their schools.

In district No. 5 the Norwegian element predominates largely. The school house is a log building which is fairly comfortable. School is usually held five months in the year.

District No. 6 is situated on the north line of the town and county and embraces a portion of Portland town in La Crosse county. This district is also provided with a log house. The Americans have the majority in this locality and great interest is manifested in the schools, which are generally taught by first-class teachers.

In 1884 district No. 7 was comparatively a new district, which embraced the village of Westby. Here a large comfortable school house stands, furnished after the latest plans and methods.

RELIGIOUS.

The Norwegians were the first to maintain religious services in this town. They held meetings at a very early date, sometime prior to 1850.

In 1884 there were three religious denominations having organizations within the town.

A Norwegian Lutheran church was located on section 2 and one of the same sect situated on the northeast corner of section 28.

The Methodist Episcopal denomination has for many years been represented by the Norwegians of that faith, who have held their meetings of late years in their church building on section 26; but, in 1884, had discontinued services and were preparing to build a new church in the village of Westby.

The Norwegian Lutheran church on section 2 was erected about the same time that the Coon Prairie church was erected in the town of Viroqua. These two Churches were formerly one, but owing to the large membership and the great distance apart it was deemed necessary to build a second church in the northern part of the town. This structure is a frame one, costing about $2,500. These two Churches are supplied by the same minister.

Rev. O. Jacobson, of Viroqua, pastor of Coon Prairie M. E. Church, was born at Taunsburg, Norway, Feb. 12, 1849. Came to the United States in 1871, lived in New York city some time, where he began preparation for the ministry. He began preaching in 1875; was ordained deacon at Faribault, Rice Co., Minn., in 1877 by Bishop Andrew; was ordained elder at Winona in 1879 by Bishop Peck. Was assigned to the Deer Park circuit where he remained two years; came here in 1881. Before his ordination, Mr. Jacobson had charge of the Churches of his denomination at St. Paul and Minneapolis, and afterward at Faribault. His

wife is a native of Sweden. They have three children.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884 there were three burying grounds within the town of Christiana. The one first located and used was on section 33. This was finally removed to the village of Westby. One known as the Methodist cemetery is situated on section 26, and one used especially by the Reformed Lutherans, is situated on section 28.

VILLAGE OF WESTBY.

The forty acres upon which this village was laid out was purchased of the State by the Lutheran Church, with the intention of building a church thereon. A portion of the land was used by this sect as a cemetery for a number of years. The Church, however, decided to build on Coon prairie, and they then exchanged the property with Nels Hanson, for that of their present location on Coon prairie. Subsequently Mr. Hanson sold the land to Jens Johnson who in turn disposed of the property to Ole Syverson, and before the village was laid out, the property passed into the hands of a son of the latter—Anton Syverson. The plat was surveyed by the railroad company in August, 1879, and a little later the survey was confirmed by the county surveyor, with a slight change. The village is the outgrowth of the railroad, which reached this point at about the same time the plat was being surveyed. The place derived its name from O. T. Westby, who was then running a small store at this point.

The first act toward business development in the place was the erection of a store by Hans Nelson, soon after the village was platted; this was still used as a store by Mr. Nelson and his son, in 1884. The postoffice was also in this building at that date.

The first regular train of cars reached this point Aug. 13, 1879. The station was opened for the transaction of business the day following. Andrew Johnson was appointed agent, which place he was still filling in 1884. The same season the warehouse of W. E. Coats & Co., was erected. Andrew Johnson purchased the first load of grain shipped from the village. John Michelet erected a second grain warehouse, the same fall.

The first lumber dealer was Peter E. Peterson, who later engaged in trade with O. T. Westby. Cargill & King, of Sparta, were the first stock dealers of the place; John Humphrey was their buyer. John Steig had a blacksmith shop at this point when the railroad was built through and continued in the business for some time thereafter. The first hotel was built in the autumn of 1879, by Berut Gilbertson, who continued to operate it for about three years. It was owned by E. C. Bergh in 1884.

The business directory of the village in July, 1883, was as follows: Hanson & Son, general merchants; C. H. Ballsrud, E. C. Bergh and Thoreson & Co., lumber dealers; John Michelet and W. E. Coats & Co., grain dealers; E. C. Bergh, hotel; Jens Skugstad, harness maker; M. J. Lindahl, tin shop; Miss Ballsrud and Josephine Michelet, milliners; Theodore Thorson and Anton Syverson, furniture dealers; B. Hanson and A. Peterson shoemakers; Charles Thorson, foundry and machine shop.

CASE OF MURDER.

A brutal case of murder of one of the citizens of the town of Christiana occurred on New Years night, 1864. Robert Lange resided on section 33, where he kept a store. Jack Clear was a soldier in the Union army, whose father lived in the town of Viroqua. At the time of the murder Clear was at home on a furlough, which had about expired. He and Lange were well acquainted and personal friends.

Lange, having business at La Crosse, an arrangement was made with Clear, by which the latter was to ride to La Crosse with Lange, on his way to join his regiment. Lange was not again seen alive by any of his friends. At about midnight, his team, with the wagon, appeared in front of the City Hotel, where Lange was accustomed to call.

The team was without a driver. An examination revealed blood stains in the wagon; a search was instituted and the body of Lange was found about three miles south of La Crosse. He had been killed and his head terribly mangled with an ax. It seems that the parties had stopped at a place where beer was sold, and Clear had improved the opportunity of secreting an ax in the wagon. The day was very cold and after they had resumed their ride, Clear pretending to be cold, jumped out of the wagon and ran along behind it for some distance, and then quietly getting in behind, picked up the ax, and struck his unsuspecting companion, mangling him in a terrible manner and doubtless killing him instantly. He then drove into the timber, threw the body from the wagon, drove the team into town, and as it appears, left it to take care of itself. The object of the murder was to secure several hundred dollars that Lange had upon his person at the time. Clear succeeded in reaching Chicago where he was arrested by Elias Solberg, sheriff of La Crosse county. The murder produced intense excitement and when Clear returned to La Crosse, with the sheriff, a desperate effort was made to lynch him, which was finally prevented by strategy. Clear was tried for the murder and sent to Waupun for life, where he remained till recently, when he was pardoned by Gov. Smith, at about the close of his administration.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Nearly thirty-six years have passed since the first settlement was made in the town, and the following named citizens are early settlers, sons or descendants of pioneers, or men prominent in town affairs, at the present writing.

Hans K. Larson, has the honor of being one of the first settlers in this town. He was born in Norway, in December, 1803, and went direct to Koshkonong, Dane county in 1848, and to Vernon county in 1849. He made a claim of a quarter section of land, forty acres on each of the four sections numbered 22, 23, 26 and 27. He finally purchased the eighty acres which lie on sections 22 and 26. Mr. Larson was married in Norway, and three children were there born, one daughter and two sons. The daughter died in Norway, and in 1849, Mr. Larson's family accompanied him to America. Another son was born on the vessel while enroute to this country. Mr. Larson has been peculiarly unfortunate with his family. His wife died in 1859, and his eldest son, Lars, reached maturity and then died, leaving a family. His second son, Mathias, died at Westby, in 1881. He was a man of intelligence, and at the time of his death was chairman of the town board and justice of the peace. The son, Andrew, born on board the vessel, only lived to be fourteen years old. A grand-son of Mr. Larson, Henry Hanson, son of Mathias, lives with his grand-father. He was the only son of his parents, and born in this town, April 7, 1870. He is a boy of intelligence and much promise.

M. C. Bergh is a son of Clement Clementson Bergh, who settled in Christiana town in 1849. He was born in Norway, in December, 1816, and emigrated to America with a wife and three children the same year he settled in Vernon county. He purchased forty acres of land from the government, and a like amount from Lars Christopherson, and lived thereon till his death, which occurred May 24, 1878. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bergh, after their arrival in this county. The widow still occupies the old homestead with her son, M. C. Bergh. The latter was born in Norway, in 1846, and married a daughter of Ole Olson, who is now deceased. These parents have been blessed with the following named children: Clara Menneli, Oscar Melvin, Tilda Maline, Nelle Bolette and Alma Charlotte. The home farm contains 120 acres.

John O. Berggum was one of the pioneers of Christiana town. He was born in Norway, Feb. 13, 1802. In October, 1836, he married Nellie Johnson, and with his wife and one daughter, also an adopted daughter named Martha Larson, left their home April 3, 1849,

in a sailing vessel for America. When five weeks out, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Berggum. At the earnest solicitation of the captain, this boy was named after himself and his vessel, Wittus Johan Benedictus. After a ten weeks voyage, they reached New York. They went up to Albany in a vessel, and from thence to Buffalo by the Erie canal. Then boarded a steamer for Milwaukee, and thence to Dane Co., Wis., by team. This was their first halting place after five and a half months of constant travel. The family stopped with friends in Dane county the following winter, and the father traveled on foot 200 miles north to find work in the pineries. He succeeded, and by spring had earned about $100, but the failure of his employers deprived him of his earnings, with the exception of a few dollars. On his return to Dane county, he passed through the northern part of Vernon county, and was so well pleased with the country called Coon Prairie, that he resolved to locate there. He purchased a yoke of steers and two cows and with a sick wife and three small children, made the long and tedious journey to the town of Christiana. He settled on a farm on section 33, and in the summer of 1851, erected his present dwelling house. This is the oldest house now in the town. Mr. Berggum had to go to Prairie du Chien, fifty-five miles distant after provisions. He has two living children —Elizabeth, wife of J. M. Rusk, and the son born on ship-board, W. J. B. Johnson.

John Michelet is a grain merchant of Westby, and one of the early settlers of Christiana town. He was born in Norway, in 1830, and in 1850, when a young man of twenty, set sail for America. He came direct to Vernon county, and from thence to Prairie du Chien, where he engaged in clerking. The following Christmas he returned by invitation to attend the wedding of Evan Olson and a Miss Nelson, which was among the first marriages in the county. When he first came to the town, he purchased a claim on section 35, of Ole Syverson, but did not settle there—after leaving Prairie du Chien, he engaged with Frank Dunn (a brother of Judge Dunn) as clerk in a store at Tibbet's Landing. This store was the first at that point; building of frame, and contained a complete stock of general merchandise. The parents of Mr. Michelet came to Vernon county in 1851, and located on their son's farm. After again clerking in Prairie du Chien for a short time, he joined his parents on the farm, and remained there until 1879. In the fall of the latter year, he came to Westby village, and has since been engaged in the grain trade. Mr. Michelet is one of the representative citizens of Christiana town, and a man highly esteemed.

Hans Olson was born in Norway Dec. 24, 1814. He married Karn Bakkam March 28, 1841. She was born June 9, 1817. They emigrated to America in the spring of 1847, and located in the town of Christiana in 1848, on the southwest quarter of section 35. Mr. Olson was accidentally killed Dec. 22, 1864, by a stroke on the head from the limb of a tree he was felling. He died within fifteen hours from the time of the accident. He was the father of six children, two of whom died before him—Minna and Martinus. The oldest daughter, Agnethe, was born in Norway, married Markus Montgomery and lives at Chicago, Ill. A son, Brown, was born in the town of Christiana, March 30, 1850, was the first white child born in the town and probably in the county. He was married to Sophia Nelson June 25, 1878, and is still living on the old homestead, where he was born. A sister, Helene, was born March 24, 1852, and married to Ole Bentson and is living in this town. Olave was born April 13, 1854, and died in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 13, 1871.

Lars Hanson resides on section 34. He was born in Norway, in 1817, and there resided during the earlier years of his life. In 1849 he emigrated with his family to the United States and settled in Vernon county in 1850. The year following he came into the town of Chris-

tiana and located on his present farm, where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are the parents of four children. The eldest child, Evan, was born in Norway Dec. 12, 1845. The others are natives of this town—Johanes, born Dec. 23, 1853, Louis L, born Aug. 1, 1856, married Carrie, daughter of Andrew Peterson, Otto, born Feb. 10, 1859.

Torger Nelson Naperud is one of the oldest settlers of Christiana town. He came to Vernon county in 1852 and purchased his farm of Lars Christopherson the same year. The farm now contains 280 acres, the greater portion of which is under cultivation. This land is situated on section 34 and only six acres were improved when it came into possession of its present owner. Torger N. Naperud was born in Norway in 1814 and emigrated to the United States with his family and parents. His father was born in 1778, and died in 1858. The mother was born in 1788, and died in 1865. Mrs. Naperud's father, John Pederson, was was born in 1791 and died in 1869. Her mother, Berte Pederson, was born in 1803, and died in 1876. These parents died at Mr. Naperud's house and all are buried in the same cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Naperud have five children, two sons and three daughters—Bergete, Necoline, Julia, John and Carl. Mr. Naperud is one of the most wealthy and respected citizens of the town.

Hans Nelson, of H. Nelson & Son, merchants at Westby, is one of the most prominent citizens of Christiana town. He is a native of Norway, where he was born in 1835. His parents had five children—two sons and three daughters. One daughter, Ingeborg, died in Norway. Another daughter, Helene, married Nels Jacobson, and with her sister Penele came to Dane Co., Wis., in 1849, where both daughters died of cholera. Mr. Jacobson afterward came to Vernon county and was one of the early settlers of the town of Hamburg. Mr. Nelson came to this State in 1852, and located the same year in the town of Hamburg, Vernon Co., Wis. In 1854 he sent to Norway for the remainder of his father's family. His mother died in Dane county when coming through that section of country, and was buried in the same graveyard with her two daughters. The father and a brother Ole located in the town of Hamburg, and there the father died Nov. 22 of the same year; aged sixty-three years. This was the first death in the town of Hamburg. Ole enlisted in the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and died at Columbus, Ky., while in the service. Mr. Nelson is the only surviving member of of the family. He settled in the town of Hamburg on section 12, in 1852, and fourteen years later removed to the town of Coon and farmed on section 8. But on the advent of the railroad into the town of Christiana, he removed to Westby and engaged in his present business. Mr. Nelson's wife is also a native of Norway. They have two sons—Necolai and Anton, both natives of Vernon county. The former is the junior member of the firm of H. Nelson & Son and the present postmaster at Westby; the latter resides on his father's farm in the town of Coon.

Even T. Sangstad, junior member of the firm of Thorreson & Co., lumber merchants, Westby, was born in Norway, in 1835. His father came to Wisconsin in 1850, and the mother and two sisters followed him in 1851. The family located on section 26, in the town of Christiana, where the mother died in 1854. The father is now in his ninety-second year, and is the oldest person in the town. They were the parents of nine children, four sons and five daughters. Two sons and four daughters are still living. The eldest daughter died in Norway. Even T. remained in his native land until eighteen years of age. In 1853 he joined his parents in this town, and has since made it his home. On Aug. 12, 1862, he resolved to assist his adopted country in suppressing the Rebellion, and therefore enlisted in company K, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served till

the government triumphed. In the spring of 1864 the regiment was at Helena, Ark., where Mr. Sangstad was taken sick, and during the remainder of his term of service, when able to work, he was assigned to detached duty. Since the war he has been mostly engaged in cultivating the soil, and at present owns a good farm on section 21. In 1881 he became a member of the firm of Thorreson & Co., in the lumber trade at Westby. Mr. Sangstad married Bertha M., daughter of Thore Olson Bakkedahl, who settled here in 1854. They have been blessed with seven children, two sons and five daughters, all living.

Christian H. Ballsrud is one of the prominent merchants of Westby. He was born in Norway, June 30, 1834, and came to the United States when twenty years of age, and direct to the town of Christiana. He was young and vigorous, and for the first four or five years readily secured employment in the lumber camps on the Black river. In 1855 he bought a piece of land on section 27 of this town, but worked two years more before making a permanent settlement. He still owns the farm which he first purchased, and it now comprises 280 acres. Mr. Ballsrud came to Wisconsin the same year the republican party was first formed at Jackson, Mich., and when he had been here long enough to understand the different principles that characterized the parties then in existence, he attached himself to the new party, and has proven a strong and earnest member to the present time. He is one of the prominent citizens of Christiana town, and has served in the greater number of its offices. He was town clerk for seven years, six of them in succession; was chairman of the board three years; assessor three years, and treasurer two years; was also justice of the peace for nine successive terms. He embarked in his present business in 1879, and now enjoys a good trade. He was married in 1859, and is the father of seven children, two sons and five daughters. Mrs. Ballsrud's parents came to America in 1854. The father, mother and two children died of cholera soon after reaching this country. Two sons and one daughter (Mrs. Ballsrud) are the only survivors. Mr. Ballsrud was once a nominee for register of deeds of Vernon county, and only lacked 132 votes of being elected. When he first came to America he acted as interpreter for his countrymen for some time.

Ernest C. Jager is one of the most industrious farmers of this town. He became a resident of Vernon county in 1855, and of Christiana town in 1871. He was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1840. In 1854 his parents, Christian and Wilhelmina Jager, with their family, started for America, but the father sickened and died while they were yet in Europe. The widow and family came on and settled in Waukegan, Ill. In 1855 Mrs. Jager removed to Vernon county, and settled in the town of Liberty. She died at Viroqua. There were six children in the family, four sons and two daughters. Two of the sons were in the Union army. Henry enlisted in the 9th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and died in Arkansas while a prisoner of war. Louis, the other soldier, is now residing in California. Mr. Jager came to Christiana town in 1871, and bought a farm of Elias Johnson, whose father was the original settler on the land. This farm comprises 160 acres, and is well improved. Mr. Jager's wife is a native of Norway. They are the parents of four children —Carl, Eda, Josephina and Henry.

Chris Christopherson resides on section 14, where he settled in 1857, and has made all the improvements on his farm. He was born in Norway, in November, 1823, and came to the United States in July, 1856. He first lived in Racine, Wis., one year, and then came to Vernon county. His father, Christopher Olson, died in Norway when his son was twenty-three years of age. His mother still lives in her native land. Five of the family came to this country all of whom live in Vernon and Monroe counties, Wis. Mr. Christopherson has been twice married. He has four sons by his first

marriage, and seven children by present wife. His farm contains 160 acres besides timbered land. Mr.Christopherson is postmaster of Newry postoffice, and is also engaged in the mercantile trade.

Erick C. Bratlie was another settler of 1855. He purchased a farm on section 36, of Simeon Peterson, the latter of whom bought it of a Mr. Woodman, a non-resident. Five acres of this land was improved when it was purchased by Mr. Bratlie, and he has placed it under a good state of cultivation, and erected substantial farm buildings. E. C. Bratlie was born in Norway in 1842. He accompanied his father, Christopher Bratlie, to this country, in 1854. The father lived with his son till his death, which occurred in 1860. He was twice married; his first wife the mother of E. C., died in Norway. His second wife died here in 1877. There were four children in the family, one son and three daughters, E. C., Bertha, wife of Elias Neperud, Mrs. Katherine Unseth, now a a widow, and Karine wife of Wilhelm Fleicher of the town of Viroqua. Eric C. Bratlie married Olavi Peterson. They have been blessed with eight children, one son and seven daughters. Mrs. Bratlie's father, Evan Peterson, came to Dane Co., Wis., from Norway, in 1847, and the following year settled on section 36 in this town, where he died June 10, 1877. His wife died in 1871. There were one son and eight daughters in the family. Three of the latter live in the town of Christiana, and all the surviving children are residents of Wisconsin.

Soren Paulsen has been a resident of Vernon county since 1858, and of this town since 1872. He is a native of Norway, where he was born in June, 1827. He there learned the carpenter and milling trades and in 1854 came to the United States. He resided a short time in each Chicago, Ill., Racine, Wis., and La Crosse, Wis. From the latter place, in 1858, he came to Vernon county, and purchased a farm of Mons. Anderson, of La Crosse. He engaged in farming for nine years. He sold his farm to John Bergh, of Richland county, and removed to Sparta, Wis. He there worked at the carpenter trade for three months. Then returned to Vernon county, and purchased an interest in the grist mill at Bloomingdale, in the town of Clinton. He was there engaged in milling, with various partners, until 1872, when he sold his interest, and purchased of Fred Olson a farm on section 35, of this town. Mr. Paulsen owns 160 acres, well improved, and his farm buildings will compare favorably with any in the town. Politically, he is a republican, and a firm adherent to the principles of that party. Mr. Paulsen's wife is also a native of Norway. They have eleven children, two sons and nine daughters.

Ole T. Westby, in whose honor the village of Westby was named, was a merchant on the site of the village for fifteen years. His uncle, Evan Olson, came to Viroqua at a very early day, and in 1849 his father, Tosten Olson Westby, came to Vernon county from Norway, and stopped with his brother Evan for a time. The following winter he left his family at Evan Olson's, town of Viroqua, and worked in the lumber regions along the Kickapoo river. In 1850 he settled on 160 acres of land on section 34, Christiana town, where he resided till his death in March, 1871. His widow still resides at Westby. They were the parents of three children when they arrived in Vernon county—Rigene, who was born in Norway in 1838, and now resides at Westby; Olen T. and Evan T., the latter of whom resides at Bloomingdale, in the town of Clinton. One child, born in this town, is now deceased. Ole T. was born in Norway in 1840. He was nine years of age when his parents came to Vernon county, and was here reared and educated. When the war commenced he enlisted in company H, 15th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served over three years. Returning home, he purchased eighty acres of his father's farm, and was engaged in farming until 1869. He then

embarked in the mercantile trade, and continued it until 1881. He married Sarah Duhl. They are the parents of nine children, six living, two sons and four daughters. Three daughters are dead.

Hermon Hermonson, a baker by trade and a farmer by occupation, resides on section 26. He was born in the city of Tonsberg, Norway, Nov. 20, 1831, and lived there till fifteen years of age. He emigrated to the United States in 1865, and joined his countrymen in Dane Co., Wis., where he lived for a short time. He then went to Racine and there worked at his trade until 1869, when he came to Vernon county and located in this town. He was the only one of his father's family who came to Vernon coun y. He was married in Norway in 1857 to Louise Harmonson, a native of Sarpborg. They have two adopted children—Peter, who was born in Norway, May 20, 1853, and Hilda, born Jan. 15, 1877. Mr. Hermonson is an industrious and intelligent citizen, and both parents are members of the M. E. Church.

E. C. Bergh is proprietor of the Westby House, also engaged in the lumber business at Westby. He is a son of C. C. Bergh, a pioneer of this town, whose personal history appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Bergh was born in the town of Christiana, Jan. 4, 1855, and here grew to manhood, receiving as good an education as the district school afforded. In September, 1879, he came to the village of Westby, about the time the railroad was first opened to the village, and embarked in his present business. He is an active buriness man, and his hotel is highly spoken of by the traveling public. Mr. Bergh married Matilda Gilbertson, and two daughters have been given them—Martha Florence and Rebecca.

Andrew Johnson is agent of the railroad at Westby station, in the town of Christiana. He was born in Norway, Feb. 1, 1851, where he was reared and educated in his native language. When seven years of age his father died and his mother subsequently married John Jurgenson Steen. The family came to the United States in June, 1867, and lived one year in Jackson Co., Wis. Then the step-father took up a homestead in the town of Preston, Trempeleau Co., Wis., and there settled. Both parents are now deceased. There were four children in the family, three sons and one daughter. The latter, Mrs. Caroline Anderson, resides on the old homestead. Charles E. is agent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, at Zembrota, Minn., and his brother Christian is with him. Andrew is the elder child and accepted his present position when the railroad was finished to Westby. He is an industrious and intelligent citizen, and his official services are very satisfactory to the company by which he is employed. He married Sarah Ramstad, a native of Norway. They have two sons—Leonard I. and Carl O.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE TOWN OF CLINTON.

Clinton is situated on the northern line of the county and comprises congressional township 14, range 3 west, containing 23,139 acres of land. The general surface of this town is very broken and hilly, composed largely of valleys and ridges. The bluffs along the streams present almost perpendicular fronts, rising in many instances, to a great height from the rivers' bed. The soil in the valleys is of a black sandy character, and very productive; the upland in the northern part of the town, produces excellent crops of wheat, oats and other cereals. In the southern part of the town is found a black loam with a clay sub-soil. All of this town was originally covered with timber, except about forty acres in the northeast corner; this was on section 11, and was included in the original entry of John Masterson, the first settler of the town. The chief varieties of timber are the white, red and burr oak, with some hard maple, bass wood and butternut. The heaviest growth of timber extends in a belt from the northwest to the southeast corner of the town, and embraces about four-fifths of the entire area of the town.

The principal stream flowing through Clinton, is the west branch of the Kickapoo river, which rises on section 6, its source being a large spring pond, on the farm of Charles Jersey; it runs south from its source, to the middle of section 7, then flows west into the town of Christiana, re-entering the town of Clinton on the southwest quarter of section 19, thence in a southeasterly direction, leaving the town from section 31. This river has several branches in the town. The first in importance, of these, is the "Chaplain branch," consisting of two streams, one rising on the northwest corner of section 4, and the other on section 15; they unite on section 8, and taking a southwesterly course, enter the main stream on section 30. What is known as the "Gillett branch" of the Kickapoo river, rises on section 16, runs southwest, and unites with the main stream on the southeast quarter of section 30. The "Pierce branch" takes its rise on section 34, and leaves the town from section 32, entering the main stream in the town of Webster. Weister creek is a smaller stream, which also has a number of small branches, which unite in the southeast part of the town, thus forming a good sized stream before they leave the borders of the town, from section 36. Another small stream, a branch of Brush creek, has its rise on the west side of section 2, and leaves the town from section 1.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first man to make an actual settlement in the town of Clinton was John Masterson, who in May, 1854, located on the northwest quarter of section 11. He was an Irishman by birth, born in the county of Mayo. He went to Canada, when young, and from there to Ohio, from which State he came to this locality. At the time he settled here his family consisted of his wife and four children—Mary Jane, William, Michael and Eliza. He resided where he first located till his death, about twenty years later. He was twice married; his second wife survived him, and in 1884 was a resident of La-

Crosse. Michael, the only one of the family in the town, was born in Ohio, May 27, 1838. He served in the 12th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, during the Rebellion.

At the time of the organization of the town of Clinton, an effort was made by Mr. Masterson and his friends to have the town named after his father, as he was the first settler within the bounds of the town. This name was applied for several years, and the clerk's records in the early history of the town so gives the name; but the later board of supervisors failed to sustain the claim of Mr. Masterson and his friends, and the name Clinton was adopted by that body.

Later in the year, 1854, Ingebret Bjorseth and Lars Morterud, two Norwegians, began the improvement of the water power at Bloomingdale, and a little later still, Ole Hallingstad located on eighty acres of land on section 31.

In 1855 the population was increased by a number of settlers; C. A. Hunt, afterward of Monroe county, located that year, at what was afterward Bloomingdale. He was one of the active men of the town in those early days.

Others came in that year, attracted, doubtless, by the prospective mill and other improvements that had began to develop themselves.

In other portions of the town, in 1855, settled Thomas Seaman and John Stokes on section 13. Mr. Stokes died, March 26, 1878.

A man named Dunn, a son-in-law of John Masterson, came with the latter, remained a short time and moved to LaCrosse.

L. B. Perkins came in October, 1854 and made an entry of land, on section 12, but did not settle on the same till in March, 1856; he afterward sold to T. J. Seaman and moved to section 9.

Another settler of 1855 was John Norris, who settled on section 26. His father, James Norris, came to Vernon county in 1854, spent two years in the town of Viroqua, and then removed to the town of Webster, where he died in February, 1883. He was a native of Maryland, born in 1799, and moved to Ohio, with his parents, when a mere boy, where he lived till the time of his coming to Vernon county. His wife, Susan (Hudson) Norris, died in 1881. There were six children in the family when they came to Vernon county. John was born in Ohio, in 1823. He was married in Ohio, his wife bore him seven children—Clarissa Almira, Phœbe, Cyrus, Susan, Margaret, Jasper and Lydia.

Hans Hanson, another pioneer of 1855, came in June, and settled on section 31, where he lived till 1871, when he exchanged his farm for a half interest in the mill property at Bloomingdale. He was born in Norway, in 1822, and came to America in 1850. He lived in Jefferson county, this State, till he came to the town of Clinton. His family consists of a wife and seven children, three boys and four girls—Maren O., Peter, Karen, Hannah M., Charley G. and Ida M.

Among the number who settled in the town during 1856 were: Samuel H. Bugbee, Samuel and Alexander Currier and Jeremiah Conaway.

Samuel H. Bugbee settled on section 12, in March. He was from the State of New York. He purchased eighty acres of land from his brother, Elijah L. Bugbee. He died Nov. 21, 1872.

Luke Bugbee, a brother of Samuel, was also an early settler.

The Currier brothers, Samuel and Alexander, in 1884, were occupying land claimed by their father, Abner Currier, in June, 1856. Abner Currier's family consisted of his wife and six children, all of whom had grown to manhood. The father died in November, 1872.

A. J. Gift and B. Banker settled in 1857. The latter located on section 1. He was afterward a soldier of the 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After the close of the Rebellion he moved to the town of Whitestown, where he died in November, 1882.

Chas. A. Merrill

James K. Boyd also settled on section 1 in 1857, and moved to Missouri in 1871, where he died.

Patrick Brody came to the town of Clinton in 1859. He purchased his first eighty acres of land of Jonathan Adams. By birth he was an Irishman. He came to America in 1847. He lived in Columbia and Ontario counties, N. Y., till he came to this town in 1859. In 1884 he possessed 480 acres of land and was engaged in farming and stock raising.

During the years 1856, 1857 and 1858, the increase of population was rapid. In 1880 the United States census gave the number of inhabitants of the town as 1008, including the village of Bloomingdale, which was given as ninety-six.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first house built in the town of Clinton was erected on section 31, on the present plat of Bloomingdale. It was built by Ingebret Bjorseth, in 1851. Here the first school in the town was taught in the summer of 1857 by Mrs. Sarah Roy.

The first sermon was preached in this house also, by Rev. John Whitworth, a Methodist clergyman. This was some time before the village of Bloomingdale was platted.

C. A. Hunt did the first blacksmithing, in 1855.

The first store was kept by H. B. Nichols, who opened up a general stock in 1856, and dealt about two years.

The first shoe shop was carried on by T. Brown.

The first saw mill was built by L. Morterud, on the southwest quarter of section 31, town 14, range 7.

ORGANIC.

Clinton was set off from the town of Christiana, in 1856. The first election was held in the village of Boomingdale, when the following named were elected as town officers: C. H. Hunt, (chairman) T. J. Seaman, and B. F. Vanduzee, supervisors; Dr. Amos Carpenter, town clerk; P. C. Taylor, treasurer. These are the only officers whose names appear on the earliest record of this town. The officers in 1883 were: P. W. Cary, (chairman) D. C. Yakey and Timothy Dwyer, supervisors; Jeremiah Conaway, clerk; E. E. Rustad, treasurer; H. M. Davis, assessor; Marion Osborne, J. C. Smith, G. C. Taylor and A. C. Clary, justices of the peace; S. W. Perkins, constable.

EDUCATIONAL.

In 1884 the town of Clinton had seven school houses, some of which were within joint districts.

District No. 1 was then using a log house, which was situated in a picturesque place, with fine play grounds adjoining. The population is made up of American, Irish and a few Norwegians.

No. 2 also contained a log building, which was situated in the heart of a fertile, well developed farming community. Here the Irish predominate; they send to school mostly in the winter season. This district while they are abundantly able to erect a school house which would be an ornament to the community and befitting their actual needs, seem to prefer the old half decayed log cabin, which has served them a quarter of a century.

The school house in district No. 3 is located near Dell postoffice, near Weister creek. This is another pioneer landmark; a log structure, old and dilapidated; most of the pupils in this district are American.

District No. 5 is on the west bank of the Kickapoo river, a few miles from Bloomingdale. This is provided with a log school house. The population are mainly Americans with an occasional Norwegian family. In the summer of 1883 the old log house was being superceded by a neat frame building, more in keeping with the times.

District No. 6 is composed chiefly of an American settlement. The school house known as "North Clinton," is pleasantly located, much interest is manifested in this district in

school matter, and their is a good average attendance both summer and winter.

District No. 7 or "Sugar Grove" school has a good frame building, well furnished and stands in a beautiful location. The American element predominates.

Joint district No. 13, is situated near the village of Bloomingdale. Here a frame house is provided, located on a hill near the village. This district is composed largely of Norwegians.

RELIGIOUS.

In 1884 there were three Church organizations in the town of Clinton—the Methodist Episcopal, the United Brethren and Roman Catholic.

The church building of the Methodists is located on section 28. It is a log house erected in 1871. A class was organized the same year in which this house was built. Rev. William McMillan officiated, and the following named comprised the first membership: M. D. Adams, P. J. Owen and wife, S. R. Curry and wife, Samuel Wakeman and wife, Joseph Hughes and wife, 'Squire H. Mossholder and wife, Mrs. Harry Hall, Mrs. Betsy Hughes, Mrs. E. Cary, Mrs. Headly, Mrs. Frances Wakeman, Mrs. Fidelia Calhoun, Mrs. Ellen Wakeman and, perhaps, a few whose names are not here mentioned.. Rev. McMillan preached for this Church a year, and was succeeded in their turn by the following named ministers : Rev. N. C. Bradley, Rev. Thompson, Rev. Smith, Rev. Frank Nuzum, Rev. R. S. Mockett, Rev. C. A. Cliff and Rev. L. N. Wooley. M. D. Adams was the first class leader, and continued to fill that office till his death, which took place Feb. 26, 1883. This is one of the largest classes on the Viola circuit, and was greatly increased by a revival held early in 1883.

The first meetings held in the town by the United Brethren were at the house of James C. Smith, on section 25, in 1857. A class was then formed by Rev. R. Powell, composed of James C. Smith and wife, Laor King and wife, Cornelius Blower and wife, Mrs. Ann Fish, Robert Campton and wife, besides a few others whose names are now forgotten. Meetings were held at private houses about a year, and then at the school house in district No. 3, till the church on section 35 was erected.

Rev. E. S. Alderman is the pastor in charge of the United Brethren congregation of Clinton town, and owns and resides on an eighty acre farm on section 35. He is a son of Elijah and Mary Alderman, and was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, April 12, 1830. He received a good common school education, supplemented with an academic course of study at Galena, Delaware Co., Ohio. He was married Sept. 5, 1852, in Athens Co., Ohio, to Miss F. D. Wakeman, and in 1859 both united with the United Brethren Church. In 1860 Mr. Alderman was licensed to preach, and traveled as an itinerant minister in the Sciota conference of Ohio for two years. In the fall of 1864 he was transferred to Wisconsin and joined the conference of that State. He finally made a permanent settlement in Vernon county, and has there resided during the greater portion of his ministerial work. His labors in the cause of his Master have been mostly confined to Vernon, Richland, Sauk, Jefferson, Monroe and Dane counties. He has been the direct means of receiving 500 converts into the Church, and administering the rite of baptism to over 400; also solemnizing 111 marriages. He has preached an average of twice each week for twenty-three years, and is still an earnest worker in the vineyard of Christ. Himself and wife have had six children born to them, losing one in infancy.

Another class of this denomination was formed in the town at a later period, and a log church was built on section 28, and called "Hughes' Chapel." Meetings were held in this till about 1882, when many of the members had removed, while others had united with the Weister Church.

The Catholic church, located on section 13, was built in 1867. It is a frame structure 32x42

feet, with an 18 foot ceiling. The first services held by the Catholics in this town were at private houses in 1862. The earliest officiating pastor was Rev. Patrick Murphy, who was also pastor at Rising Sun. The following named pastors have since served the Church: Rev. Father Marco, Rev. Nicholas Steeley, Rev. Michael Heiss, Rev. H. Grosse, who was pastor when the church was erected; he was succeeded by Rev. W. Hackner, then came Rev. Father Wicker. The trustees at the time the church was built were: Patrick Brody, Michael Navin, John Masterson, Hugh Donahue and Timothy Dwyer. The entire cost of the church building was $2,000.

CEMETERIES.

The first cemetery in the town was situated near Bloomingdale and was open in 1857, fenced and improved. The next was the Catholic burying ground near their church on section 13. The third was located on Weister creek and owned by the United Brethren Church Another cemetery is situated in school district No. 6, known as "North Clinton Cemetery." There is also one at Sugar Grove by the United Brethren Church.

MILLS.

The numerous streams throughout this town, which have an abrupt descent, afford ample water-power privileges, which have been quite well improved and made a great source of interest to the town, even from its earliest history.

The first mill was begun by I. Bjorseth and L. Morterud, in 1854; but before its completion the site with the half finished mill was sold to Evan Olson, who in 1855 sold a half interest to C. A. Hunt. The mill was finished and put in operation by this gentleman, in 1856. In 1884 this property was owned by Marion Osborn.

Marion Osborn is owner and proprietor of the grist mill at Bloomingdale, and also of saw-mill in the town of Webster, on this branch of the Kickapoo river. He bought the grist mill in August, 1877, of Hans Hanson and Frederick Olson. Mr. Osborn is a native of Indiana. He came to this county with his father in 1858. He has had large experience in the milling business. He learned the trade of his father who owned a mill in the town of Kickapoo. He purchased the mill of his father in 1866, and run it for seven years, and then engaged in farming in the town of Kickapoo, which he continued four years, when he sold his farm and bought this mill property as stated. The mill at Bloomingdale has two run of stone, and does all kinds of custom work. Mr. Osborn was a member of the 46th Wisconsin regiment, Volunteer Infantry in the war of the Rebellion, serving about one year. Mrs. Osborn was formerly Miss Hannah McKettrick.

From time to time there has been a number of saw mills in operation, within this town, including some run by steam, the principal one of which was brought in and set up by Ransom and A. P. Gillett, about 1855. This mill was located on the "Gillett branch" of the Kickapoo river, on section 20; it was operated at that point a number of years, and then moved to various points in the town as occasion seemed to require, and was finally discontinued. The engine, by which the mill was propelled, was afterward used in the Springville flouring mill of the town of Jefferson.

The first saw mill operated by water power, was erected by John and John S. Dickson, father and son, on section 30; it was on the west branch of the Kickapoo river. James Dickson, another son, did the carpenter work, and afterward owned the premises. This mill was fitted up, for work, in 1856, and was run till July, 1881, when the dam was washed away and never rebuilt.

A saw mill was operated by Alexander Swim, on section 30, in 1865 or 1866. In 1884 it was owned by H. W. Knapp, and was still doing a good business.

Still another saw mill was built, in 1867, on section 26; only ran for a few years.

The object of these various saw mills was to convert into lumber the oak and bass wood

timber, with which the town abounded. There was also a considerable amount of pine timber on sections 17 and 21, which had mostly disappeared prior to 1880. A large amount of hard maple was also cut into lumber, by these mills; this was mostly used for the manufacture of furniture and wagon axles.

Another important enterprise is the bedstead factory of Andrew Bakken, which was erected in 1881, but not fully completed to its present capacity till 1883. This is situated on the west branch of the Kickapoo river, on the south part of section 30. Here Mr. Bakken manufactures all kinds of turned bedsteads. The dimensions of this factory are 24x36 feet. The machinery is propelled by a fine turbine water wheel, which transmits its power to the various machinery by means of a wire cable 150 feet in length.

Andrew Bakken is the owner of the bedstead and turning works on section 30, near Bloomingdale. He was born in Norway, in 1848. His father having died in Norway, he came to this country with his mother in 1869. He lived about one year in the town of Viroqua, and then removed to Richland Center, Richland county, where he worked in a bedstead factory about three years; thence to Milwaukee, where he worked for a time, as turner in a sash and door factory. He was then for a time engaged as turner in a furniture establishment at Chicago, Ill. He then returned to Richland Center, and came to the town of Clinton in 1879. He married Eliza, daughter of Nels Larson. Mrs. Bakken died in December, 1876, leaving one daughter, Amelia, born in 1875.

THE VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE.

This beautiful place was laid out in October, 1857, by Charles A. Hunt, Evan Olson and J. E. Palmer, whose names have already been mentioned among the pioneers of this town. The Bloomingdale postoffice was established in 1858. Dr. Amos Carpenter was the first postmaster; he was succeeded by C. A. Hunt and he by Tobias Brown, who was appointed Dec. 11, 1865, and served till 1871, when E. E. Rustad was appointed.

The first physician was Dr. Amos Carpenter; he was not a graduate, but a fair doctor. In 1884 he was living at Seelyburg, this county.

Drs. Hamilton, Lewis and C. M. Poff have practiced in the vicinity of Bloomingdale for a number of years; the latter being the only one there in 1884. His biography appears in the Medical Chapter.

Bloomingdale has always been a good business point. The mill which was the first erected in the town aids in drawing a large trade to the village.

In November 1883 the business of this place was represented as follows:

Christian A. Morterud, general merchant and grain dealer; C. W. Dyson, general merchant; E. E. Rustad, general store, also keeps the postoffice; H Gihle and Peter Hanson, blacksmiths; Henry A. Hanson, tannery; G. O. Myburg, shoemaker.

VILLAGE OF PRESTONVILLE.

This little village is located on section 26; it was laid out by Obadiah S. Preston in 1866. At about this time R. R. Jenness put up a store and sold goods for about two years. He was succeeded by Thomas Campton, who remained in trade a year and was succeeded by James Wagner, who ran a store for three years; then came Dr. Dennis W. Adams, who continued three years, and was then followed by Harry Pierce, who operated a general store till the time of his death. His wife then carried on the business and was thus engaged in 1884.

Mr. Preston built a saw-mill on Weister creek, at this point, in 1867, and ran it until 1873, when the property passed into the hands of J. Ogg, who rebuilt the dam, which had been washed out, and repaired the mill. He sold to Martin B. Mills, who ran it till 1881, when its use was discontinued.

In the fall of 1879 a second store was started by William Mack and Jake Streeton, of Sparta, who operated only a year.

A postoffice was established here in 1874 called Dell. Dr. D. W. Adams was postmaster and still acted in that capacity in 1884.

While this village never has assumed any great pretensions as a business point, yet it has afforded a handy place for the farming community to trade in a small way.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

The following personal sketches represent a goodly number of those who have settled in the town since 1855, and, by their energy, enterprise and moral influence have advanced and kept at a high standard the agricultural, manufacturing and business interests of the entire community.

Charles Hollingstad has resided on section 31 since he was seven years of age. His father, Ole Hollingstad, was a native of Norway, and emigrated with his family to America in 1854. He came direct to this town, and entered eighty acres of government land on section 31, which farm he subsequently increased by the purchase of another eighty. He was the father of seven children, of five whom are living. Charles was born in Norway, in 1847, and has been reared and educated in this county. He married Margaret, the daughter of John Olson Melby. Mr. Hollingstad's farm is the greater portion of the old homestead and contains 120 acres.

Jonathan Potts is one of the pioneers of Vernon county. He entered 120 acres of government land, in the town of Webster, May 5, 1854, and after living on that farm twenty-two years sold it to Franklin Woods, with sixty five acres improved. He came to Clinton town in 1876, and bought of Silas Calhoun his present farm on section 23,which was originally entered by Le Roy Jenness. Mr. Potts was born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, and is a son of John and Margaret (Kinder) Potts, who came to Wisconsin with their two sons, Jonathan and George Wesley, in 1854. The father settled on section 21, town of Webster, where he lived till the time of his death, which occurred Nov. 9, 1876. His wife had departed this life several years previous. George W. settled in Webster town, and still resides there. Jonathan Potts married Theressa Norris, who died June 25, 1883. They have four children —Phebe A., Thomas, William S. and Fannie. William S., who resides with his parents, was born in the town of Webster, in December, 1854.

John W. Appleman one of the energetic and successful farmers of this town, is also one of the earliest settlers. His farm and residence are on section 22, where he has 160 acres of land; he also owns eighty acres on section 18. He bought his farm of John Color in 1870. Mr. Appleman has made good improvements on his land, the most of which he has made himself. He is a son of Jesse Appleman, his residence in the county dating from 1856. He was born in Deerfield township, Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1844. He enlisted in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served one year. Company A was first commanded by Col. Butt, and afterward by Capt. J. R. Casson. The first farm Mr. Appleman owned was on section 29. His wife was Sarah Parr, a sister of John Parr, of this town. They have seven children, two boys and five girls— James W., Ida J., Elizabeth E., Marietta, Charles H., Clara L. and Olive L.

Mr. Appleman's father, Jesse Appleman, resides just across the line in the town of Webster. He is one of the largest land owners in the county. The maiden name of his mother, who has been dead many years, was Beulah Pettet.

In the spring of 1855 two brothers, John S., and Hiram Dickson, came to Vernon county from Athens Co., Ohio, being natives of Morgan county. They located at Viroqua, where the former worked at his trade of blacksmithing. In the fall of the same year their father, John Dickson, followed them and in the spring of 1856, the three located on section 30, in town 14 north, range 3 west, where they erected a sawmill on the Kickapoo river. The father lived on that farm until his death, which occurred in

the fall of 1861. One son, John S., is living at Springville in the town of Jefferson, and Hiram, the other son, is a resident of Richland county. In 1856 these three were joined by another son, James, but he soon after returned to Ohio and did not make a permanent settlement here until the fall of 1860. James Dickson was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1831, and went to Athens Co., Ohio, in 1837, and there resided until he he came to Vernon county in the fall of 1860. In 1861 he purchased the farm which now contains 120 acres. He married Nancy, daughter of James Maxwell. They have eight children—Edwin M., Thaddeus, Myra A., Sarah J., Cynthia J., James Emmett, Ira C. and Hattie M. One son, George, is deceased. Mrs. Dickson's father, James Maxwell, was a native of Pennsylvania, but when a child accompanied his parents to Muskingum Co., Ohio. He came to Vernon county with his family in the fall of 1854 and was one of the pioneers of Jefferson town. He located about one mile north of Springville, where he lived till his death in February, 1875. He was the father of nine children, one son and eight daughters. The latter are all living, but the former died when six years old.

John S. Jenness has been a resident of Wisconsin nearly thirty years. His father, Thomas Jenness, was one of the settlers of 1856, in Vernon county. He was born in Orange Co., Vt., where he was reared and married. In April, 1855, he came to Rock Co., Wis., and the following fall to Vernon county. He located on section 14, where he lived till his death. His wife was formerly Clarissa McGlouthin, a native of Massachusetts. They were the parents of four children that reached maturity—three sons and one daughter—John S., in this town, Thomas L. and Robert R., at Windom, Cottonwood Co., Minn., and Abbie, a resident of Denver, Colorado. John S. was born in Orange Co., Vt., in 1834, and came to Wisconsin in September, 1855. He learned the carpenter and mill-wright trades and worked at them for fifteen years. In 1865 he bought of Thomas Lindley a farm on section 17, now containing about 200 acres. Mr. Jenness married Minerva Maxwell; and five children have been given them—Ida M., Mettie, Elsie M., James V. and Nancy J.

James C. Smith came in with the settlers of 1856. He located 160 acres of government land on section 25, in 1859, where he still resides. Mr. Smith was born in Guernsey Co., Ohio, in 1818. His father, Nathaniel Smith, was a native of Maryland, but located in Ohio at an early day in the history of the Buckeye State. James C. was reared to manhood on his father's farm, and his entire life has been passed in agricultural pursuits. He has been a member of the United Brethern Congregation for forty-four years, and has ever been prominently identified with the interests of that denomination in this town. Mr. Smith has been married three times. His first wife was Catharine Wandling, who died previous to his coming to Wisconsin, leaving one son, Nathaniel B. His second wife was Sarah Ben, who came here with her husband, and died in 1862. His third wife was Alzina Merrick, who departed this life in March, 1870. Mr. Smith has two living children by his second wife—Leonard W. and Mary C.

Hon. D. C. Yakey was one of the early teachers of southwestern Wisconsin. He was born in Loudoun county, in the good old State of Virginia, the home of Washington, in 1830. When two years of age, his parents sought a new home in Ohio, and D. C. grew to manhood in Perry and Muskingum counties of the Buckeye State. His father, Jacob Yakey, is living, and still resides in Ohio. Mr. Yakey received fair educational advantages in his youth, and being of an enquiring turn of mind, thought to see what advantage the famous western country afforded for a young man. On Oct. 6, 1856, he arrived in Bad Ax (now Vernon) county. Soon after his arrival, he was employed to teach, and followed that profession for some years, the greater portion of the time

in Vernon county. He was a thorough teacher and firm disciplinarian, and his success was good. In 1861 he was elected superintendent of the schools of Clinton town, but subsequently enlisted in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the varied fortunes of that regiment through its long and tedious three year's service. In 1866 Mr. Yakey settled on his present farm on section 20. Mr. Yakey married Julia Adams, and seven children have been born to them—Clara, Luna, Laura, Ira, Hattie, Lucy and Byron.

Samuel Russell Curry resides on section 28. He has been a resident of this town since the spring of 1860, when he settled on his present farm, which was entered by his father, William Curry, several years previous to that time. Mr. Curry was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1837, and there lived until 1860, when he came to Vernon county. A sister of Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abi Adams, wife of Mordecai Adams, was the first member of the family who came to the county to reside. Mr. Curry married Martha A. Griffin, a daughter of John Griffin, of Viroqua, born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., in 1844, and came to Vernon county with her parents in 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Curry have three children—Albert U., Sarah E. and John W. They have lost three children—George W., their first child, Edward B. and Ida F. Mr. Curry's farm contains 188 acres. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the town of Clinton.

Henry Knapp is one of the well known pioneers of this town. He came here in 1860, and located on section 19, where he still resides. His farm contains 220 acres, and he also owns and operates a saw mill on section 30. Mr. Knapp was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., in 1821. His father, Henry W. Knapp, was also a native of Connecticut, and died when his son Henry was a child. Henry was reared on a farm, and also learned a mechanical trade. He was married in his native State, to Lois A. Rood, whose father, Augustus B. Rood, died in Norfolk, Conn. Mr. Knapp finally concluded to locate in one of the western States, and with his wife and family came direct to Madison, Wis., in 1855, with his brother-in-law, W. F. Webster, who had preceded him westward only a few months. Mr. Knapp went to Beaver Dam, in January, 1856, and the two engaged in the manufacture of siding lumber. In the fall of 1856, in company with C. P. Clark, Mr. Knapp erected a steam plaining mill, which the firm operated for two years. Mr. Knapp then sold his interest in the business, rented a farm, and was engaged in farming until he came to Vernon county. He has held nearly all of the town offices, and was chairman of the town board for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp have been blessed with three children—Emma, wife of G. W. Martin, Walcott H. and William E.

John Parr came to the town of Clinton, in 1867, bought a farm of Martin Flemming and James Wagner, and settled on section 33. He has been a resident of the county since 1860. He was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, and is a son of Thomas Parr. He married Mary, daughter of Jesse Appleman. She was born in Perry Co., Ohio, and accompanied her father to Vernon county in 1855. They have seven children living—Charles E., Cora E., Nellie C., Beulah J., Jesse J., Arthur O. and Gracie P. One daughter, Mary E., is dead. Mr. Parr's farm contains eighty acres, on which he has made various improvements.

Dr. D. W. Adams, a prominent citizen of Prestonville, in Clinton town, has been a resident of Vernon county since 1861. He was born in Washington Co., Ohio, in 1818, but mostly reared in the adjoining county of Morgan. He there commenced the study of medicine in 1845, and prosecuted his studies until 1848, when he commenced practicing. In 1861 he removed to this county and located on section 36, of Clinton town. He abandoned the practice of medicine and improved a farm,

which he sold in the fall of 1870. He then engaged in the mercantile trade at Prestonville. He resumed the practice of his chosen profession in 1872, and also owns another farm located near his former one. Dr. Adams married Catharine Bailey, a native of Louisiana. Her father was a native of Virginia, but when a young man went to Louisiana, and was there married. His wife died shortly after their union, leaving one child, now Mrs. Dr. Adams. The father was absent at the time of her decease, and the mother gave her child in charge of whom she supposed was a true friend. This person, a Mrs. Blanchard, was a slave owner, and soon compelled the little girl to associate with the slaves, with the evident intention of reducing her to slavery. The father knew nothing of this, but the facts reached the ears of the Lady Superior of the Orphans' Asylum of New Orleans, who rescued the child, and placed her in that Catholic institution. She remained there six months, and then her father learned of her residence and had her removed to the home of Dr. Norton, with whom she lived until the latter's death. She was then twelve years of age, and went to Ohio with her father, where she was married. Dr. Adams and wife have five living children—Nerana D., Mary J., James Q., Alice A. and Nelson H. D. The eldest son, Isaac M., was a soldier in the 20th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, during the late war, and while assisting with a battery, at the taking of Spanish Fort, was severely injured by the recoil of a cannon, from the effects of which he died in the spring of 1870. A daughter, Harriet F., lost her life by the accidental explosion of a kerosine lamp. She was married, and left one child. Another married daughter, Elvira, died at Prestonville. Several children died in infancy.

William Dolen resides on section 34, where he settled in the fall of 1863. He purchased a quarter section of land of William Bryson, who located it from the government. He was born in York Co., Penn., in 1814, and there lived until he arrived at the age of manhood. He then removed to Ohio, and worked as a laborer for five years, and subsequently married Susan Forest, a native of Ohio, and engaged in farming on a piece of land which lay both in Washington and Morgan counties. He lived there until 1863. In 1862 his wife died, leaving him with two children—Mary E. and William, Jr. He lived on the farm one year after his wife's death, and then came to Clinton, Vernon Co., Wis. Mary E. was married in 1866 to James F. Wakeman, a native of Ohio. They resided on the homestead until 1875, and then removed to Curry Co., Oregon. William Jr., married Sarah A., daughter of Lawrence Smith, a native of Sauk Co., Wis., and now resides on the old homestead. Their union has been blessed with three children—Hattie M., Jennie M. and Bertha E.

Christian A. Morterud is the oldest established merchant in the village of Bloomingdale. He is a native of Norway, where he was born in 1833. He was well educated in his native tongue, and reared to a mercantile life. In 1865, when thirty-two years of age, he came to Wisconsin, and for a short time clerked for H. Pierce, then a merchant of Bloomingdale, now deceased. He soon after formed a partnership with his employer, but in a few months bought out Mr. Pierce's interest in the stock, and has since conducted the business alone. Mr. Morterud has put into practice all the business qualifications he was taught in his youth, and in connection with years of practical experience, has succeeded in building up a large and lucrative trade and winning the respect and esteem of all his acquaintances. His trade will aggregate $12,000 to $15,000 annually, and the profits of his past business has enabled him to accumulate a fine property. In 1880 he erected his present store building. It is of frame, 24x65 feet in size, and cost about $1,500. Mr. Morterud has served as a member of the school board for several years, treasurer of the town

nine years; was justice of the peace two years and declined to serve longer, and has been a notary public since February, 1874. He married Sina, daughter of Ole Svendson. They have five children—Anna, Gustavus, Clara, Oscar and Matilda.

Pearly J. Owen, a native of Ohio, came in 1866. He bought a farm on section 28, of Henry Pettit, and put up a log cabin in which he lived until 1871, when he erected his present residence. The farm was covered with a heavy growth of first timber, and Mr. Owen has already cleared about 100 acres out of a total of 212½ acres. Pearly J. Owen was born in Washington Co., Ohio, in 1826. He was reared in Athens Co., Ohio, and lived there until 1866, the date of his removal to this county. His father, James Owen, and his mother were the parents of seven children, none of whom are residents of Wisconsin except our subject. P. J. Owen married Rosa Ann Hughes, formerly of Ohio. They have two children—Mary E., wife of Edward Allen, and Viola A. Mr. and Mrs. Owen are members of the M. E. Church of this town.

Gaylord S. Wakeman came to Vernon county with his father, Samuel Wakeman, in 1866. He was born in Athens Co., Ohio, in 1848. In 1869 he settled on his present farm on section 22, which he bought of William Merrill, who entered the farm as government land. Mr. Wakeman's farm contains eighty acres, well improved He married Phebe, daughter of John Norris, and four children have been given to them—Tessa A., Huldah A., Myrta E. and Charles H.

William Wakeman is a son of Samuel S. Wakeman, who came to Vernon county from Ohio, in March, 1866, and entered eighty acres of land on section 28, of Clinton town. Samuel Wakeman and wife were the parents of six children, five of whom have resided in Vernon county—William, Mrs. Fidelia Calhoun, who subsequently returned to Ohio, Mrs. Eveline Snyder, who, at the time the family located here, was Mrs. Patterson Carey. The two youngest were Gaylord and Francis H., the latter of whom returned to Ohio in 1881, and now resides with the eldest daughter, Mrs. Sabra A. Morris, in Athens county. The mother of these children died in this county, Feb. 1, 1881. The father is still a resident of Clinton town. William Wakeman was born in Ohio, in 1839, and made his first visit to Wisconsin in 1861. He was here when the war commenced, and immediately enlisted in the 19th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, serving three years and three months, and participating in all the battles and skirmishes in which his regiment was engaged. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Ohio, his native State, and in 1866 made a permanent settlement in Clinton town, purchasing his present farm of Smith Messer, in 1867. Mr. Wakeman has been twice married. His first wife was Ellen, daughter of Jesse Appleman. Two children were born to them. His present wife was Elizabeth Silbaugh, a daughter of Isaac Silbaugh. This union has been blessed with three children. Mr. Wakeman's farm comprises eighty acres of land, on which he has made various improvements.

Philip W. Cary resides on section 15, where he settled in the fall of 1868. He purchased a heavily timbered farm of 120 acres of Patrick Brody, eighty-five acres of which Mr. Cary has well improved. He is considered one of the substantial citizens of Clinton town; was assessor three terms; has been a member of the board of town trustees for several years, and is its present chairman. He was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1848. His grand-father was a native of the Isle of Guernsey, and emigrated to America in 1848. Mr. Cary's parents, Henry A. and Dolly (Newton) Cary, were natives respectively of Philadelphia and Massachusetts. Mrs. Cary's ancestors have been residents of New England for several generations past. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom, Philip W. and James P., are the only members of the family that ever located in

Wisconsin. James P. served in the 18th regiment, Ohio Volunteers; was in the army of the Cumberland, and participated in several important engagements. After the war, he returned to Ohio and married Eveline Wakeman. He came to Vernon county in 1866, and settled in Clinton town, where he died Sept. 5, 1869, leaving a wife and two children, a son and a daughter. Philip W. married Clarissa Norris, a daughter of John H. Norris. They are the parents of one son—Cyrus Seward, born Jan. 14, 1873.

C. W. Dyson is engaged in the general mercantile trade at Bloomingdale. He was born in Athens Co., Ohio, in 1842, and was married to Lucy A. Danes, also a native of that county. During the civil war, Mr. Dyson was subject to the orders of the 3d regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, and served one and a half years, guarding the frontier. In 1874 he came to the town of Clinton, and purchased a farm of S. A. Matson, on sections 17 and 20, with a dwelling house on the latter section. This farm was first settled by Mr. Matson's father-in-law, John Adams. In 1876, Mr. Dyson came to Bloomingdale, and is enjoying a fair trade.

J. M. Poff, eclectic physician and surgeon, Bloomingdale, located here in 1882. His father, Dr. J. J. Poff, came to Wisconsin from Indiana some years ago. He first settled at Tomah, and subsequently in Richland county, at Belle Center, Crawford county, where he died July 6, 1875. Dr. Poff commenced the study of medicine with his brother, Dr. C. M. Poff, of Readstown, and at present is attending lectures at the Bennett Medical College, Chicago, Ill., from which he will graduate in the class of 1884. Dr. Poff has been in Bloomingdale about one year, and has secured an extensive and increasing practice. He married Lellah Gates, daughter of Willian Gates, of Readstown.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE TOWN OF COON.

The town of Coon is in the northern tier of congressional townships of Vernon county. It is bounded on the north by La Crosse county, on the east by Christiana, on the south by Jefferson, and on the west by Hamburg towns, and comprises township 14, range 5, having an area of 23,040 acres. Coon river flows through the northern part of the town, entering on section 1, passing through sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8. This stream has several tributaries, which water the entire northern portion of the town. Coon, in common with all the territory embraced within the county, has a rolling and in some places a very rough hilly surface. The soil is of a sandy loam, which produces the finest crops of grain, corn and vegetables known to this part of the State.

SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement was effected by Norwegians, in 1848, and in 1884 they owned nearly every farm within its borders.

Helgar Gilbronson was the first actual settler of the town. He came in 1848 and located on section 8, where he died a few years later. His widow was still living in the town in 1884, at the village of Coon Valley.

Next came Peter Anderson, who settled in 1849 on section 9.

O. Martinson came in during 1850, locating on section 36, where he was still living in 1884.

Christian Anderson came the year following.

Lars Helgerson and his son, Helga Larson, located in the town, on section 11, in 1852.

Among the settlers who came in during 1854, were the following: Ole Nearison, who came from Dane county and settled on section 33.

Halver Asmonson, who located on section 22, where he died in 1873.

Swen Thorson located in the northeast part of the town.

Neary Nearison came to section 27, located and was still a resident of the same farm in 1884.

T. Seagerson also settled on section 27, where he lived till 1873, then moved west.

Brea Erickson, who came from Dane county the same year, settled on section 28, where he still lived in 1884.

Hans Hanson also came from Dane county, and located in 1857.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first marriage in the town was that of Lars Olson and Anna Onset. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Stubbs, some time during 1853.

The first child born was Mary, daughter of Helga and Agnetta Gilbronson, in 1852.

The first death was that of Nels Olson, in 1854.

The first school was taught in 1855 by Peter O. Brye, in a dwelling belonging to John Christianson. The first school house was built on section 33, in 1859.

The first religious services was preaching at the house of Helga Gilbronson, in 1859.

ORGANIC.

The town of Coon was organized in 1859. The first election was held April 6, 1859, at the

old log school house on section 33. The first town officers elected were: Peter O. Brye, chairman; John P. Johnson, clerk; Peter O. Brye, treasurer; Ole Nearison and Amund Martinson, side board; Peter O. Brye, superintendent of schools; Peter O. Brye, assessor. The officers of 1883 were: Helgar Larson, chairman; E. O. Teffre, clerk; C. O. Brye, treasurer; Jacob Johnson and Peter J. Johnson, side board; Peter M. Johnson, assessor.

SCHOOLS.

Notwithstanding the greater portion of the population of this town are Norwegians, much attention has been paid to schools in which the English language has been taught. The first school dates back to 1855. In 1884 there were six school houses in the town and 378 scholars.

VILLAGE OF COON VALLEY.

This village was laid out and regularly platted in 1859, by Henry Johnson, and is situated on section 7. It was named Coon Valley, as it is located in the valley of Coon river. The river at this point furnishes an abundant water power. The first house was built by Henry Johnson. There are no school or church buildings within the village proper, but just at the edge of the place, the district school building is located.

In 1861 or 1862 the Evangelical Lutherans organized a Church, and in 1878 built a church edifice on section 8. In 1884 this was the only religious organization in the town.

The beginning of business in the place was the opening of a store by Henry Johnson, in 1863. A saw mill was put in operation in 1858, by Mr. Johnson, who in 1863 erected a flouring mill. The first blacksmith shop was opened by Hans Nelson in 1866. The first shoemaker was Knudt Olson.

In 1884 the business of the village was represented as follows: Peter Swan & Co., and H. Hanson, dry goods; the same firms also operated largely in the hardware and grocery trades. Peter Swan & Co., were proprietors of the flouring and saw mills, also a wool carding mill. Andrew Smaby ran a blacksmith shop, doing general repair work. Ole Lien was the proprietor of a syrup manufactory.

H. Hanson, the leading merchant of the village of Coon Valley, was born in Norway in 1840, and emigrated to the United States in 1850. He first settled at La Crosse, Wis., where he remained until twenty-two years of age. He then came to the town of Coon and located in a settlement that two years later was laid out and platted and named Coon Valley. Mr. Hanson purchased a house and lot in the new village and for a number of years worked for Henry Johnson in the saw-mill and general store. In 1872 he opened a general store at Coon Valley postoffice, where he carries a stock valued at about $3,500, and enjoys a large and paying trade. Mr. Hanson was the third appointed postmaster of Coon Valley and has held the position continuously for fourteen years. He was married in 1877 to Alma Olson. They are the parents of three children—Henry Alfred, William Howard and Christian Gerhard.

L. P. Swan, senior member of the firm of Swan, Naperud & Co., was born in Sweden in July 8, 1845. He was induced to come to the United States in 1869, and first located at Lansing, Iowa. He remained in that place for two years and then removed to La Crosse, Wis., where he was a resident for four years. In 1875 he came to the town of Coon and soon after purchased a third interest in the flouring and saw mill and a general store at Coon Valley. The firm is the largest in the village and carry on an extensive business. Mr. Swan was united in mariage, in 1876, to Lina Neperud, and two children have been born to them—Anna and Amanda.

John A. Neperud, of the firm of Swan, Neperud & Co., millers and dealers in general merchandise, Coon Valley postoffice, was born in Norway, in 1847, and when ten years of age came to this country with his parents. They located in the town of Hamburg, where John A.

grew to manhood. He worked on a farm in early life, and in 1878 came to the village of Coon Valley and became a member of the firm of Swan, Neperud & Co., owners of the flour and saw mill and a stock of general merchandise. Mr. Neperud has prospered fairly since engaging in business. He married Caroline Haswald, and they have one child—Anna.

Simon P. Lier, junior member of Swan, Neperud & Co., millers and merchants, was born in Norway, in 1842, and was there educated. In 1869 he emigrated to the United States and came direct to Vernon county. He located in the village of Coon Valley, and in 1882 rented a one-third interest in the flour and saw mill and mercantile trade, of which he is now the junior partner. The grist mill contains four run of buhr stones, has a capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day and is valued at $15,000. The saw mill has a capacity of 3,000 feet per day. Their stock of goods is valued at $2,000. In 1882 Mr. Lier was married to Regina Frantson.

POSTOFFICE.

Peter O. Brye was instrumental in the establishment of a postoffice in 1861. The first postmaster was Henry Johnson, who was in time succeeded by Andrew Engerbretson, who was followed by H. Hanson, the latter being postmaster in 1884, having thus held the office for fifteen years.

Jacob Johnson was born in Norway, March 6, 1845. In 1867 the family emigrated to the United States, coming direct to Wisconsin and settling in Fond du Lac county. In 1869 they came to Vernon county. Jacob Johnson was married June 17, 1875, to Hetta A. Berg. They have three children—Clara Isabel, Calman Albert and Petter. In 1874 Mr. Johnson settled in the town of Coon, on section 32, where he now resides. In 1878 he was elected a justice of the peace, which position he still holds, and is also serving his third term as member of the town board of supervisors.

Ole Evenson Nesting, a young and prosperous farmer of the town of Coon, was born in Norway, in 1849. He emigrated to the United States in 1871, and first came to the town of Coon, in this county. He purchased a farm of 200 acres from Christopher Hanson. Mr. Evenson is an energetic and enterprising young man, and not being content with only a farm, he wooed and won Mr. Hanson's daughter, Ingeborg, and they were married in 1874. Three children have been given to them—Eliza, Charlie and Selmer.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE TOWN OF FOREST.

This town is located on the northern line of towns in Vernon county, and is the first west of Hillsborough, the northeastern town of the county. The town is bounded on the north by Monroe county; on the east by Hillsborough town; on the south by Union town, and on the west by the town of Whitestown. This town is known as a congressional township, six miles square, and containing 23,040 acres. In 1880 the population of Vernon county was but 23,235, and each of these, with the exception of the surplus 195, could have been located in Forest town, settling one person on each acre of land.

The town is well watered by three main streams and their tributaries. Warner creek rises in the northeast quarter of section 27, and flows southerly and westerly through sections 27, 34, 33, 32 and 31. On this latter section it unites with the northern branch, which finds a head on section 29 and takes a southwesterly course till it reaches the main channel. The north branch of Billing's creek enters the town on section 4, and passes through sections 5, 8 and 7, leaving the town on the southwestern quarter of section 7. The south branch of Billing's creek rises near the center of section 14, and flows westerly through sections 14, 15, 22, 21, 20 and 19, leaving the town near the southern line of section 18. Two other streams flow through the town. One rises on section 11, and takes a northerly course through section 2, and the other rises on section 26 and flows easterly through section 25. The surface of the town is very rolling and of a rough character, but very fine farm lands are found on the bluffs, while those in the valleys are better adapted to the raising of stock on a large scale.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In May, 1855, Waldo Stewart came into what is now the town of Forest, and selected a quarter section of land on section 26, which he entered, and on which he resided till 1879. He then sold the old homestead and removed to Illinois, where he departed this life in 1881. The second settler was a native of the "Green Mountain" State. This was Nathan Sherman. He located 200 acres on section 12, and moved there in the fall of 1855, where he still lives. He has been a prosperous farmer, and in 1856 was a member of the town board.

John C. Tabor made a settlement here in 1855, entering land on section 1. The same year a Mr. Eno and family removed out here from Connecticut, and located eighty acres on section 31. A son of Mr. Eno, Edgar by name, still resides in the town.

Germany furnished another settler in 1855 in the person of Henry F. Stelting. He entered 120 acres of land on section 3.

Thomas Andrews and Jonas Hubbard came in the early spring of 1856, and settled on section 13. Mr. Hubbard yet resides there, but Mr. Andrews is deceased.

Albert Kies came about the same time and entered land on section 12. Mr. Kies is now living in the village of Ontario.

Old Vermont again furnished a new citizen and J. B. Nofsinger made his new home on eighty acres of timbered land on section 33. Mr. Nofsinger was made chairman of the town board in 1857 and held that office for eight years.

These early settlers were s oon followed by Cyrenius Lumbart and Matthew Ellis; Samuel Baldwin, who settled on section 12; John W. Williams, who located on section 15, and many others whose names cannot be recalled.

FIRST THINGS.

The first settler was Waldo Stewart, who located here in May, 1855.

The first person deceased was Albert Kies in 1856 the same year he came

The first birth in the town (white) was Sarah, daughter of Philander and Miranda Chandler.

The first school was taught in 1856 in a log house, thrown together to take advantage of the school fund. It was located on the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 12. Roseldah Sherman taught the first school.

The first marriage in the town was James Morgan to Mrs. Jerusha Kies (widow of Albert Kies, deceased), in 1857, Benjamin Roberts, J. P., officiating.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. Israel Burch in Mr. Sherman's log house in 1856.

ORGANIC.

In the spring of 1856 permission was asked of the county board of supervisors for the erection of a new town to be called Forest. The request was granted and the town set apart. On the 1st of April of the same year an election was held and the following officers were elected:

Chairman, Giles White; assistants, Nathan Sherman and J B. Nofsinger; clerk, William C. Stelting; treasurer, John C. Tabor; assessor, Giles White; superintendent of schools, John C. Tabor.

The present officers of the town are as follows:

Chairman of the board, R. S. Sherman; assistants, J. N. Ledman and L. Baldwin; clerk, J. J. Marshall; treasurer, E. Eno; assessor, William H. Stelting.

RELIGIOUS.

The first to organize a religious society was the United Brethren sect, who organized in 1856. The first pastor was Rev. Doolittle.

The Christians also formed a society at an early date, and continued about four years, holding meetings at the Forest school house.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church, of Forest town, was organized in 1857 at the residence of John Markee by Rev. Cooley, who preached the first sermon. The following named ministers have officiated in the order they are named: Rev. John Markee, Rev. De Lap, Rev. Bray, Rev. De Lap, Rev. Townsend, Rev. John Markee, Rev. De Lap, Rev. Good, Rev. Mulinx, Rev. Vandresden, Rev. Buckner, Rev. Holcomb, Rev. Harris and Rev. McNoun, the present pastor. The present membership of the congregation is about thirty, and the present trustees are: John Markee, F. M Cleveland and G. Eastman.

EDUCATIONAL.

Over twenty-seven years have elapsed since the little log school house was erected on section 12. In these twenty-seven years the population of Forest has increased between eight and nine hundred per cent., and in 1880 numbered 889 souls. Better and more educational facilities are needed at the present time, and the 442 school children of Forest now meet in nine school houses, scattered over the entire town, with an aggregate value of $3,955.

POSTOFFICES.

The town is well supplied with postal facilities, in fact, as much so as any town in the county. The first established was at Mount Tabor. This was located on section 1, in 1856, and J. Clark Tabor was the first postmaster.

He was followed in consecutive order by John Howell, R. S. Sherman, Eli Sherman, Nathan Sherman, Eli Sherman and John Malosh, the latter of whom is the present postmaster.

The Burr postoffice was established in 1859, on the south line of section 23, and at the intersection of several important roads. Wesley Barton was appointed as postmaster, and he was succeeded by J. Linch, who was postmaster in 1884.

In 1863 it was thought necessary to have an office in the southern part of the town, and Goole postoffice was therefore established. William Giles, the first postmaster, was succeeded by James Kiel, incumbent in 1884.

Valley postoffice was located on section 31, in 1865, for the benefit of the settlers in the western and southwestern portions of the town. Fred Meyers first assumed the duties of the office, and was succeeded by William Copley. Mr. Copley died while in office, and his widow remained in charge until D. A. Lawton, the present official, took charge of the office.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884 the town contained two burying grounds, the oldest of which is situated on the southwest quarter of section 1. The other on section 26, near the church.

Earnest Lodge, No. 212, of the Good Templar's order, was organized by the following charter membership, Jan. 1, 1881: Mary Sherman, Eli Sherman, George Pepper, Ann Pepper, N. F. Sherman, Emma Sherman, Clara Roberts, John Jeffries, O. J. Jeffries, Henry Pepper, Harrison Pepper, Clarence Sherman and A. Sherman. In 1884 this lodge had a live membership of thirty-eight.

PERSONAL SKETCHES.

The following notices include the names of the most influential and respected citizens of the town. They are deserving of more than passing notice, on account of their prominence in the different lines of business in which they are engaged.

Benjamin Roberts, one of the first settlers of the town of Forest, was born in 1816, in Franklin Co., N. Y., where he received a common school education. Mr. Roberts resided in his native town until 1854, when he came to Wisconsin. He first located in Walworth county, but only remained one year, and then moved to Vernon county, and entered 200 acres of land in the town of Forest, on section 1, where he still resides. At the time Mr. Roberts came to Forest town, there were only two families in the town, those of Nathan Sherman and J. B. Nofsinger. The first winter, he was compelled to sell his only team to obtain money to purchase provisions, but has since been very prosperous. Mr. Roberts was united in marriage to Maria Tabor, in 1843. Mrs. Roberts was born in 1821, in Lower Canada, and came to the United States in 1837. They have had six children, one of which, Milan, was killed in a railroad accident, between St. Paul and Minneapolis. Five children are living—Elizabeth, wife of Lewis Clute, D. C., who married Lucinda Burris; Clayton B., married to Maria Fowler; Lucias T., who married Rose Vincent, and Clara. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have nine grand-children, Josie, Grace and Raymond Clute; William and Mirtie Roberts, and Linn, and an infant, the children of Clayton B. Roberts, and Edna and Edmond, children of Milan Roberts, deceased. Mr. Roberts was elected justice of the peace in 1856, at the first town election.

In the fall of that same year, and about the time that Benjamin Roberts had located here, a sturdy German and his family, including two sons—William C. and Frederick, came here from Hendricks Co., Ind., and were content to begin life anew in the wilderness of timber that covered Forest. Dederick Stelting was born in Germany, in 1796, and emigrated to these United States, in 1838. He resided several years in Pennsylvania, and subsequently in Maryland and Hendricks Co., Ind. In the latter country, he lost his wife Elizabeth, who was born in Germany, 1802, and died in 1854. Soon after, Mr. Stelting removed the remainder of his family to Dane Co., Wis., and in the golden days of October or November, came to the town of Forest, and made a new home for

his children. He resided with W. C. Stelting until his death, Feb. 25, 1883.

William C. Stelting, one of the sons mentioned, was born in Prussia, in 1828, and accompanied his father through to this town. Mr. Stelling entered for himself eighty-nine acres of land on sections 14 and 23, and by industry and economy has been enabled to increase his possessions to 209 acres. He is one of the prominent citizens of the town, and when it was first set off, served one year as town clerk Since that period he has officiated as chairman of the town board fifteen years, and treasurer three years. In 1860 he married Sarah A., daughter of John and Permelia Markle. They have nine children—Permelia E., Lizetta E., Otto J., Witto A., Samary M., Alfretta and Loretta (twins, aged nine years), Waldo and Essie.

Frederick Stelting was born in Prussia, in 1834, and accompanied his parents to America when quite small. In Hendricks Co., Ind., he learned the cooper trade, and worked at it until his removal to this town, in 1855. In connection with a brother, he located 200 acres of land on section 14, where he has since lived He has been energetic and frugal, and has increased his farm to 311 acres, most of which is well improved. He served as one of the town supervisors for one year, and in 1863 married Miranda Markle, who was born in 1844. Seven children have been given them, but only two survive—Herman T. and Austin G. The deceased are C. A., Bird C., Oscar D., Alice and Elsie.

John Revels was but a boy of ten years when his father came into the town of Forest, in 1855. He was a native Hoosier, and born in Orange Co., Ind., in 1845. He grew up to manhood in the town of Forest, and has always made this his home. He has been engaged in agricultural pursuits through life, and now owns forty acres of land on section 6. In 1863 he enlisted in the 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, and was discharged in 1865, on account of his eyes being injured by coming in contact with burnt powder. Mr. Revels was married, in 1865, to Tempa C. McCord, of Vernon Co., Mo. They are the parents of six children—Mary J., Eddie M., John W., Court, Ettie and Herman. Mr. Revels is a member of the Richland United Christian Conference, and is trying to vindicate God's Holy word.

C. M. Carr, one of the most prominent attorneys at law, and business men and farmers of this part of Vernon county, was born in Thompkins Co., N. Y., in 1817. When eleven years of age, his parents removed to Cuyuga county, in the same State, where our subject grew to be a man, and was engaged in farming and milling. In 1855 he removed to Waukesha Co., Wis., and for two years was engaged in the saw-mill business. He then entered 120 acres of land in the town of Hillsborough, in this county, and employed his time at farming. He made his home there for twenty-four years, increasing his land to 140 acres and practicing the profession of law. In 1866, he was appointed by the governor, to the position of supervisor for the eastern district of the county, when the entire county board consisted of but three members, and held the office of justice of the peace for two terms. In 1881 he disposed of his farm, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 23, in Forest town, where he has since resided. For the past twenty-five years, Mr. Carr has enjoyed an extensive practice in the justice courts, and is a man highly esteemed by all. He was married, in the winter of 1845, to Emily Pierce. They have five children—Isaac F., Harry B., Casion M., Lucia M. and Nelson R.

Richard J. Harris, who has been a citizen of the town of Forest for twenty-one years, was born in Rock Co, Ill., in 1848. In 1853 he was taken by his parents to Stoughton, Wis., and there remained for two years. They then removed to the village of Munford, in Grant county, and there engaged in keeping hotel for two years. Their next move was to Richland Center, Richland county, and three years later (in 1860) to the town of Forest. The elder

Mr. Harris bought 160 acres of land on section 16. He now resides on section 14. He owns 480 acres of land, and is one of the most thriving and prosperous farmers in the town. On Jan. 1, 1872, he married Harriet Trail, and the fruits of this union have been the birth of five children. Three are living—William H., Nettie J. and George T. Cora, the oldest, died in 1874, and Franklin J. in 1881.

J. J. Marshall, a native of the Buckeye State, settled here in 1865. He was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1842, and in 1856 accompanied his parents to the town of Union in this county. In 1865 Mr. Marshall purchased a farm of eighty acres on section 31, and immediately moved thereon. He has increased his farm to 220 acres, and is considered one of the representative men of this town. During his residence here he has been honored with the office of town supervisor three years, and town clerk five years, was assistant postmaster in the State Senate, in 1883. He was united in marriage, in 1863, to Mary S. Poorman. They have nine children—John L., Elihu F., Mary E., Flora E., Moses B., Sidney J., Nettie, Esther A. and Jessie F.

John Lathrop, one the prospering farmers of the town of Forest, was born in Cambridge, Vt., in 1838. He there resided until 1863, when he went to Franklin Co., Vt., where he engaged in farming for five years. In 1868 he came to the town of Forest, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 22, which farm he has increased to 200 acres. Mr. Lathrop was married in 1861 to Delia Leach, by whom he had two children—Charlie and Nellie. He was so unfortunate as to lose his wife in 1878. He was again married in 1880 to Louisa Woods, and they have one child—Adelia. His daughter Nellie is now the wife of Lawrence Gregory. Mr. Lathrop has been one of the constables of Forest town for five years.

John Shaw was born in 1829, in New Hampshire, where he remained until 1841, when he removed to Milwaukee, Wis., and shortly after to Waukesha county, where he lived twenty-seven years, and then removed to the town of Forest, where he engaged in farming. Mr. Shaw now owns a pretty little farm of forty acres on section 32, where he resides. He was married in 1856 to Helen Hay, by whom he had one child. Mrs. Shaw died in 1857. Mr. Shaw again married in 1859 Henrietta Beebe, and they have six children—Helen, Henry, Charles, William, Inez and Milan. Helen is now the wife of Eli Sherman. Mr. Shaw was a member of the 7th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; enlisted in 1864, and was honorably discharged in 1865.

Elijah Bass was born in North Carolina in 1836, and his parents removed to Ohio the same year. He lived in the Buckeye State until 1870, when he came to the town of Forest and purchased thirty-two acres of land on section 28, where he now resides. Mr. Bass has increased his farm to 152 acres. Mr. Bass was married in 1861 to Elizabeth O'Neal, born in 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Bass are the parents of twelve children—Ransom, aged twenty-one, Matilda, aged twenty, William, aged nineteen, Zachariah, aged seventeen, Mansfield, aged fifteen, Caroline, aged eleven, Ardelia, aged nine, Victoria, aged seven, Martha, aged four, Jewell, aged three, and Simon, aged one and half years. Matilda is now the wife of Warren Newell.

J. C. Rodgers was born in 1855, and is a native of Rock Co., Wis., where he remained until 1860, when his parents then removed to the town of Greenwood in this county. In 1870. Mr. Rodgers came to the town of Forest, and purchased 160 acres of land on section 6, where he now lives. Mr. Rodgers was married, in 1875, to Phebe Gaudy, who became the mother of one child — Myrtle. Mrs. Rodgers died in 1878, and he subsequently married Mrs. Jane Pointer. Mrs. Rodgers had one daughter by her former husband—Elizabeth. Mr. Rodger's father, A. W., was born in 1829, in New York. His mother, Sarah, was

born in 1837, in New York, and is now living with her husband at North Hudson, Wis.

Napoleon B. Lathrop, a brother of John Lathrop, was born in Cambridge, Vt., in 1841, where he resided thirty years, and having learned the trade of carpenter and joiner he went to Canada in 1871, to work at his trade. He remained there two years, and in 1873 removed to the town of Forest, where he remained but a short time, and then went to Clayton Co., Iowa, and worked at his trade for three years, and at the end of that time he returned to Forest town, where he has since lived. When he first came he purchased eighty acres of land on section 22, which he now owns. Mr. Lathrop was married in 1880 to Jane Smith. They have two children—Harvey and Eliza. In 1861 Mr Lathrop enlisted in the 2d regiment, Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and at the battle of Savage Station was wounded in the left shoulder; and at the battle of Fisher's Hill he was wounded in the right side of the face; and at the battle of Cold Harbor was shot out of a tree with wounds in the back and right hip. At this time he was acting as a sharp shooter, having been detailed in 1863 as one of the Vermont sharp shooters.

Jesse Delaney was born in Vernon Co., Ind., in 1860. He is a son of Robert and Sarah Delaney. The latter died in 1877, and the former in the town of Forest, in 1880. Mr. Delaney grew to manhood in his native county, and in 1877, while a young man, decided to come west and build up his home among the people of the Badger State. He came to Forest town in 1877, and owns forty acres of land on section 8, where he now resides. In 1882 he was united in marriage to Emma, daughter of William M. and Mary A. Carson. Mr. and Mrs. Delaney have one son—Gideon.

James Kile was born in 1820, and received a common school education. In 1845 he removed to Rock Co., Wis., and there engaged in farming for one year. He then removed to Wiota, Wis., and a year later removed to Moscow, in this State, and lived there fifteen years. In 1877 he came to Vernon county and purchased eighty acres of land on section 33, where he now resides. In 1864 Mr. Kile and son George enlisted in the 37th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and were discharged in 1865. Mr. Kile was married in 1840 to Huldah Van Norman, who was born in 1821. They have four children—George, who married Laura Burdick; Mary, wife of Wallace Spears; John, who married Julia Salisbury, and Guila, who married Catharine Salisbury.

John H. Wells was born in New York, in 1839, and lived there until he was eighteen years of age. He then came west to Dane Co., Wis., and there engaged in farming until 1862. In the latter year he enlisted in the 23d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged in 1865. He participated in the following named skirmishes and battles: Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Black River Bridge, siege of Vicksburg, siege of Jackson, Miss., Spanish Fort and Grand Caton. At the latter he was taken prisoner on Nov. 3, 1863, and was confined until Dec. 25, 1863. At the close of the war Mr. Wells returned to Dane county, and there remained until 1877, when he removed to the town of Forest, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 1, where he now lives. He was married in 1860 to Maria Thompson, who was born in 1839. They have one daughter—Hattie, aged ten years. Mrs. Wells is the daughter of James and Lydia Thompson.

Alfred Weaver, a native of North Carolina, became a resident here in October, 1879. He was born in 1831, and in September, 1844, accompanied his father's family to Fayette Co., Ohio. In the fall of 1848 they removed to Grant Co., Ind., where Alfred was married to Sarah D. Revels in the autumn of 1851. In 1859 he removed his family to Sauk Co., Wis. and in March, 1864, enlisted in the 29th regiment, Illinois Volunteers (colored), and served twenty months. He returned to Wisconsin, and in 1870 removed to Indiana with his wife and ten children. In 1873 himself and wife were divorced, and in 1877 he married Mary Certain, who is the mother of one child. In October, 1879, he settled on section 8, in Forest township, where he has since been engaged in farming.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN.

The town of Franklin is situated in the southern part of Vernon county, and comprises parts of congressional townships 11 and 12, ranges 4 and 5. It has an area of fifty-two sections or about 33,280 acres. It is bounded by the towns of Jefferson and Viroqua on the north, Viroqua and Kickapoo on the east, Crawford county on the south, and the towns of Sterling and Jefferson on the west.

The only streams within the borders of this town are a few small creeks, among which are, Tainters, a branch of the Kickapoo river, and a branch of the lower Bad Ax river. The general surface of the country is very rough and hilly. Among the objects of natural curiosity in this town is "Monumental Rock," which is described in another chapter.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

To John McCullough is ascribed the honor of having made the first actual settlement in the town of Franklin. He came in 1844 and afterward entered land and did some breaking. The next spring he brought his family on. His claim was on section 25 of township 12, range 5 west. In 1852 he, with a number of others, went to California, remained a year in the gold region, and wrote to his brother that he was about to return, but he was never afterward heard of, and it is supposed he perished on the plains.

In 1845 George P. Taylor located on section 30 of township 12, range 4. He remained till 1882, at which date he sold to J. C. Adkins.

Henry Siefert, a bachelor, came in 1845 and settled on section 18, where he built a log house. His mother soon came and kept house for him a number of years, when they removed to Iowa.

Another settler of 1845 was Samuel Rice and his brother Hiram. The former brought his family with him. His wife died a year or two after their arrival and he married again, but left his family and moved to Mackinaw, Mich.

Abram Stiles settled at Brookville on section 15, in 1846 or 1847.

Dr. Swain and Rev. James A. Cook also came the same season.

Edward Davis, who was among the pioneers of the town, settled on section 35, township 12, range 5. He was a resident of the county in 1884, but not living on the same land on which he first settled.

Andrew Briggs, a man of considerable ability, and who was afterward a member of the State Assembly, settled in the town at an early time. He removed to Readstown, where he died.

Michael Hinkst settled on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 31, township 12, range 4, Aug. 6, 1847, where he was still living in 1884.

Another early settler was Anson Tainter, whose settlement dates back to 1848. He was born in Virginia, Aug. 19, 1823. His father was Stephen Tainter, a native of Massachusetts. A. G. Tainter married Rachel J. Tobler. Mr. Tainter is one of the well known and well to do farmers of this town; his residence is on section 11. He owns over 400 acres of land in Vernon county, and 160 acres in Crawford county. Mr. and Mrs. Tainter have been

blessed with twelve children, ten of whom were living in 1884.

Among other settlers in the town was Ransom Lamb, who removed from Virginia, his native State, to Illinois, and from there to Franklin township in 1850, where he remained till his death, in 1871.

Besides those mentioned as being among the first settlers were: George Pike, L. D. Smith, John Britt, Andrew Henry, James Lawrence, William Utley, E. Inman, Ira Wixcox, Isaiah Adams and Daniel Read, who built the Readstown mill. All of these came prior to 1853.

C. C. Fortney, an early settler, was the son of Christian O. Fortney, who was born in Norway, and came to America in 1856, settling in the town of Franklin, on section 10, township 11, range 4, where he remained till his death, Jan. 11, 1869. He left a wife and two children. C. C. is the only one now living. He was born in Norway in 1846. He married Margaret Jones, daughter of Elling Johnson, an early settler of the town of Liberty. Mr. and Mrs. Fortney have five children—Christine, Christopher, Gustave, Carrie and Eliza.

ORGANIC.

The town of Franklin was the last territory in the county to which the name "Bad Ax" was applied. It was changed from Bad Ax to "Loch Haven," by the board of supervisors, April 8, 1857. The following year, 1858, it was given the name of Franklin.

No record having been preserved, nothing certain can be determined upon as to who the first officers were Those of 1883 were: Chris Ellefson (chairman), Arne Larson, William Clawater, supervisors; Knute Peterson, treasurer; W. W. Johnson, assessor; Forest F. W. Alexander, clerk; O. S. Henry and Sidney Higgins, justices of the peace.

Forest F. W. Alexander is the present town clerk of the town of Franklin. He resides on section 18, town 12, range 4 west. He has fifty acres of land, which he purchased of Harriet Dulap. He was born in Broome Co., N. Y., and came to Wisconsin with his father, who settled at Muscoda, Grant county. The family came to Vernon county in 1869 and settled at Liberty Pole. The father is now deceased. Forest has been generally engaged in clerking. He married Mary Crume, whose father was an early settler of the town of Viroqua. They have three children—Florence M., Grace and Rue E.

SCHOOLS.

The first school house in this town was made of logs, and located near New Brookville on section 17, town 12, range 4. In it was taught the first school in the town of Franklin; Lorenzo Pierce was the first teacher.

In 1883 the town was divided into ten school districts, commencing to number at "three."

The first school building in district No. 3, which was built at an early day, served until 1877, when a new frame structure was built. From the date of the erection of this building. the interest in school matters has increased.

District No. 4 embraces the territory around the village of Brookville. A new building superceded the old pioneer house, in 1878, which has accommodation for about fifty pupils.

In district No. 5 the school house is situated in a beautiful grove, and is finely furnished with the most improved style of seats etc. The scholars are mostly Norwegian, who in winter time, furnish a large attendance and manifest much interest.

District No. 6 embraces what is known as Liberty Pole. Here a commodious school building has been erected, which is well supplied with the best of seats and apparatus, including maps and charts. This school is always well attended and successfully conducted.

District No. 7 is chiefly made up of Germans and Norwegians. The school district is provided with a good building, enclosed by a substantial fence, and being near a fine grove is a very attractive place.

District No. 8, at that date, had an inferior building, in an out of the way place. However

the school usually has a good attendance. The scholars are chiefly Irish and Norwegians.

District No. 9 is in the heart of the heaviest Norwegian settlement. The school house here, is small but in good repair and well furnished. The winter school is usually well attended.

In district No. 10 the school building is located on low flat ground, near a little creek. Here the school interests have been greatly neglected.

In district No. 11 the building is small and poorly furnished. The location is a beautiful elevation. The attendance is small in the summer time. The school population are chiefly Norwegians, with a few Irish.

In district No. 12 there is a very good school house, which however, is poorly located on low ground. This school has a good average attendance.

RELIGIOUS.

The earliest religious services within Franklin town were held at private houses before a school house or church had been erected or even contemplated. The first services were conducted by a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal denomination from Prairie du Chien. This was in 1846. A little later a log school house was built on section 17 and services were then held in that. The Rev. Parkins was the first to preach regularly here.

The names of the first class organized were, so far as remembered: Dr. George A. Swain and wife, J. A. Cooke and wife. The latter named was the leader of the class and later became a local preacher, remaining such till his death. As the county increased in population so did this Church in membership and spiritual strength. For some years it was in what was known as the Bad Ax mission, which was afterward included in the Viroqua circuit, and is now known as the Liberty Pole circuit.

There are two Norwegian churches in the town of Franklin. One is situated on section 10, town 11, range 4 and belongs to what is known as Hanges Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America. It became detached from the parent synod about 1860. It numbers about thirty-five voting members. A church building was erected in 1872. The first trustees were: C. C. Fortney, Ole Torge and Knute O. Fortney. The first pastor was Elling Eilson.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church is located on section 15 ,town 11, range 4 west This denomination was the first to locate in this town.

The first Norwegian settler of the town of Franklin was Torger O. Fortney, who came in 1855; others came about the same time and soon after, services of this people were held in a church built of logs, located just over the line in Crawford county. In 1876 they erected a neat frame church on section 15. The first sermon preached in this building was delivered by Rev. Juve. He was succeeded by Rev. J. Neilson. Others who have preached for and been pastor of this Church from time to time are: Rev. Stubb and Rev. Praus.

LIBERTY POLE.

This place, as an old pioneer remarked in 1883, "is an imaginary village." At a very early day some town lots were staked off and numbered, of which but a very few were ever sold. Yet this particular locality has always been a prominent land mark to both the resident and stranger. It derived its name from the fact that the first liberty pole or flag staff in Vernon county was erected at this point July 3, 1848. A postoffice was established there, called Bad Ax, which, in 1870, was changed to Liberty Pole.

Hiram Rice sold the first goods at this point.

Jacob Higgins erected a store at an early day and he, in company with Capt. Thomas Cade, ran a store for about a year, during a part of 1862 and 1863, when Mr. Cade withdrew from the firm.

A Mr. Smith also traded there a little later, as did Luther Nichols.

In 1884 there was a small store operated by Knute Peterson.

Soren Hanson, a native of Denmark, came to the United States in 1873 and located in the fall of that year at Liberty Pole. Here he worked at the blacksmith's trade which he had learned in his native land.

CEMETERIES.

In 1853 James Lawrence buried his sister, Mrs. Henry Williams, on land he owned on section 19, and after a few years gave a piece of land containing about two acres, including the spot where his sister was buried, to be used by the town of Franklin as a cemetery, It is situated in a beautiful spot within the forest near the road-side, and is the principal burying ground of the town.

There was, in 1884, besides this cemetery, a Norwegian burying place near their church, south of Liberty Pole, and also a few private burying grounds.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

We herewith present some biographical sketches of Franklin's most prominent citizens. They are worthy of especial attention.

Dr. George A. Swain was one of the pioneers of Vernon county. He was a native of Ohio. His parents were from Pennsylvania, and his paternal father was a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Swain's parents died when he was quite small and he was reared on a farm. He was married in Ohio to Anna Hay, and a few years after suffered the loss of a leg by the falling of a tree. After this accident he turned his attention to the study of medicine and removed from Wood to Wayne county, in the same State. He subsequently located in Wayne Co., Ill., and in 1845 came to Vernon Co., Wis. He settled in a small settlement afterward called New Brookville, and was engaged in farming. He was probably the first physician in Vernon county, and as such his professional services were much in requisition. The county was sparsely settled and a call for the "doctor" would probably come from the distant parts of the county. A long ride through forests and underbrush, and small, if any, remuneration was often the result of such calls; but Dr. Swain never faltered when sickness demanded his attention, and many an early settler remembers him with heartfelt gratitude. In 1879 he removed to Kansas. Himself and wife had seven children, six living—Henry V., Jonathan H., John J., Allan L., R. B and William M. Their other child, Julia, died at the early age of eight years. The family are all residents of Bourbon and Rock Co's., Kansas with one exception. Jonathan H. resides on a portion of the old homestead on section 21. He was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, March 1, 1835, and accompanied his father to this county. He enlisted in the 50th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was in the army about one year and four months. He married Louisa Stricker, daughter of William Stricker. They have three sons and one daughter—Lemard W., Hobart F., Effie A. M. and Frank W. Mr. Swain's farm contains 114 acres.

Michael Hinkst owns a fine farm of 240 acres on section 31. He was born in York Co., Penn., March 10, 1817, and when eight years of age removed to Ohio with his parents. When a young man he spent ten years at various points in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, engaged in farming and mining. He was employed in the lead mines in Grant Co., Wis., as early as 1836. On Aug. 6, 1847, he came into Vernon county and located in what is now Franklin town, and is the earliest settler now residing in the town. Others came before he did, but they have moved away or have died. Mr. Hinkst is a man of good education and possesses a valuable fund of general information. He was the second superintendent of schools for the town and held that position eight years. He has also served as chairman of the board and clerk of the town. Mr. Hinkst was married Oct. 19, 1852, to Eliza Fisher, born in Crawford Co., Penn., Aug. 13, 1824. She removed to Wisconsin with her parents when quite young. She died in the town of Franklin, in

June, 1863. Mrs. Hinkst was the mother of four children—George, who resides in Virginia City, Nev., and three daughters—Jane, Lydia and May. All were students at the State Normal School at Platteville, and are now engaged in teaching school.

Jacob Higgins was one of the earlier settlers of Franklin town, and is well remembered by the pioneers. He was born near Ithica, N. Y., Oct. 2, 1802, and was there reared, receiving a good education. He taught school in New York in early life, and then went to Michigan, where he opened a store and was engaged in mercantile pursuits. On Nov. 10, 1842, he there married Phebe Wisel, and seven years later came to Vernon (then known as Bad Ax) county, Wis., arriving May 10, 1849. He located at Liberty Pole, and immediately bought a quarter section of land on sections 25 and 26, town 12 north, range 5 west. He continued in mercantile pursuits, was also postmaster of what was then known as Bad Ax postoffice, and continued in that office until his death. He held various town offices. In March, 1857, he removed his family on his farm one mile west of Liberty Pole, where he permanently settled, and was a prominent and well respected citizen up to his death, which occurred Sept. 4, 1858. Mrs. Higgins was born at Parma, Cattaraugas Co., N. Y., and removed to Indiana with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have two living children—Sidney, who was born in Steuben Co., Ind., Sept. 2, 1843, has always lived on the old homestead, married Lucy A., daughter of Jesse Davis, an early settler of this town. They have four children. Judson the second son, was born in St. Joseph Co., Mich., Aug. 11, 1845, married Alice Robson, and has four children. Zuleima, the only daughter, was born at White Pigeon, Mich., Dec. 28, 1847, and died on the old homestead, Feb. 16, 1868.

Milton Southwick has resided here since 1851. His father, Amasa Southwick, was born in New York, and was married at Jamestown, Chautauqua county, in his native State, to Permelia Sherwin. He removed his family to the village of Harmonsburg, Crawford Co., Penn., and there resided until 1846. In the latter year he loaded up his family and household effects, and with a team of oxen as the motive power, started westward over the mountains of Pennsylvania. He traversed the hilly country of eastern Ohio, and the flat prairies of northern Indiana, and finally stopped at Janesville, Rock Co., Wis. In 1851 Mr. Southwick removed his family to Vernon county and purchased a claim of State land of L. D. Smith, at that time a merchant of Liberty Pole. This land was located on section 28, and was farmed by Mr. Southwick until his decease. He died July 17, 1860, leaving a wife and six children. Mr. Southwick learned the carpenter and joiner trade in New York, and followed it for some years after locating here. Mrs. Southwick resides at Salem, Oregon, with her three youngest children—Frank, Mary and Ella. The other children are as follows—Sarah E., wife of David Cary, resides near Soldier's Grove; Milton and Nancy A., wife of Myron Goodell; Amy and Matilda (Brown) are dead. Milton, the eldest son, resides on the home farm, which now comprises 130 acres. He was born in Crawford Co., Penn., in 1836, and was fifteen years of age when his parents came to this county. During the war he enlisted in the 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served about two years. He married Juliette, daughter of Ransom Lamb, who was one of the early settlers of this county. They are the parents of eleven children, all living—Amasa R., Maria J., Burnham, Ada, Emma, Lucy, Myrtia, Edna, Vesta, Helen and Frank B. Mr. Southwick has also served his neighbors and fellow citizens as chairman of the board of supervisors, road supervisor and town treasurer for several terms.

Thomas Cade, familiarly known as "Capt." Cade, is one of the successful and enterprising farmers of Franklin township. He was born

near Hull, Yorkshire, England, March 9, 1811. He emigrated to the United States with his father, Thomas Cade, in 1830. The family settled in Michigan, where the father resided till his death. On Aug. 3, 1853, Mr. Cade came to the town of Franklin, and located on a farm he had purchased of James McColloch the preceding June. Some five acres of this farm were improved when Mr. Cade became its owner, and he immediately began to clear the land and cultivate the soil. He was the first person to experiment in fruit growing in Vernon county. In 1854–55, he set out 300 trees, consisting mostly of apples and plums. He also set out three pear trees which bore large and excellent flavored fruit for a few years, and then stopped bearing. In 1854 he went back to Michigan and bougbt a flock of sheep, which he took to his new home. These were among the first sheep ever brought into Vernon county. His farm now consists of 200 acres. Mr. Cade married Lydia Read, a native of Tompkins Co., N. Y., and a niece of Daniel Read, in whose honor the village of Readstown bears its name. Mr. and Mrs. Cade have had eight children, six living—George B., Henry R., Joseph D , John W., Isabell and David A. The deceased were Elizabeth and Jonathan G., the latter a twin of David A.

William Clawater, of Liberty Pole, is one of the early and well known settlers of Vernon county. He settled in this town Oct. 21, 1853. He was born at Rock Haven, Clinton Co., Penn., in 1825, and came to the town of Franklin Oct. 1, 1853. He was married in Pennsylvania, and came here with his family. His father, William Clawater, came here at the same time, and lived with his son until his decease. Mr. Clawater and father were the only members of the family that ever came to Franklin town. He had five brothers and four sisters; two of the former and one of the latter are still living. His oldest brother, Cornelius H., lives at Stewartville, Mo., John F. in Donophon Co., Kan., and his sister Jane, wife of D. M. McDonald, resides at St. Joseph, Mo. Mr. Clawater married Elizabeth E. Hogue, a native of Indiana. They have ten children, three sons and seven daughters—Mary A., wife of Lloyd Coe; Jessie, wife of Thomas Kelly; Jennie, Louis, Kate, Belle, Edna, Forestine, Ray and Wade. Mr. Clawater's general occupation has been farming. He has 256 acres of land in his home farm, also owns land elsewhere. He has been chairman and member of the town board of supervisors for about twenty years.

John Fortney resides on section 33, and is a son of Thomas Fortney, who became a resident of the town of Franklin in 1856. Thomas Fortney was born in Lysters, Bergens stift, Norway, Feb. 4. 1816. He learned the blacksmith's trade in his native land, and came to the United States in 1853. He bought a tract of land of George P. Taylor, and the residue of his farm from the State. He still resides on section 4, where he first settled. Mr. Fortney married Susan Ottum, and eight children have been born to them—John, the eldest son, was born in Dane Co., Wis., in 1855. He bought his farm, now comprising 240 acres, of David Carrey. His wife is a native of Norway. The second son is Ole, born in Vernon county in 1858, also married and owning 265 acres of land on section 32. The other children are Hans, Arne, Katherine, Thomas, Christian and Christina.

Robert Hornby came to Franklin with "Captain" Cade in 1853. He was born in Canada in 1832, and accompanied his father's family to Michigan in 1841. Mrs. Hornby died there and Mr. Hornby, in 1851, went to California, returned to Michigan in 1856, and came to Vernon Co., Wis., residing with his son Robert until his death, Oct. 15, 1874. Robert has been a resident here for thirty years, and owns a farm of 203 acres on sections 26 and 35. He married Margaret Getter, a native of New York, and daughter of Ferdinand Getter. They have been given five children, four sons and one

daughter—Martin L., William, George, May and James.

Among the early settlers of the town of Franklin, is Andrew J. Johnson, who resides on section 19, of town 12 north, of range 4 west, (town of Franklin), where he settled in November, 1853, on government land. Mr. Johnson was born in Albemarle Co., Va., in 1819, where he lived till seventeen years of age, when he removed with his parents, William R., and Francis Johnson, to Alton, Ill. In 1846 Mr. Johnson came to Lafayette Co., Wis., when that State was yet a territory. He came here from that county. His father went to Lafayette county in 1847, and came here with his son, in 1853, with whom he lived until his death in 1861, at the advanced age of ninety-six years. His wife died in Illinois. Mr. Johnson was married in Alton, Ill., to Elizabeth Brown, who died in this town July 9, 1872. He has six children—William O., A. F., Anna, wife of Fayette Tainter, Edwin R., Fannie, wife of Nathaniel Bowman, and Mary, now Mrs. Burleigh. Mr. Johnson's farm contains 170 acres. He is one of the substantial citizens of the town of Franklin. He has been a member of the town board and also a school director. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Liberty Pole.

Jacob Dach was one of the early settlers of this town. He was born in Alsace-Loraine, then a province of France, in 1810, and lived there during early life. He was there married to Mary Miller, and four children were born to them, two daughters and two sons. The two former died, and in 1854 Mr. Dach, wife and two sons, emigrated to America. They came directly to Vernon county, where they joined Mr. Dach's brother, Christian, who had preceded them a year. They purchased of Elisha Inman, a farm of 160 acres, and both brothers went to work to improve the land. The country was new, also the farm, but both were energetic and hopeful, and soon the land was cleared and cultivated. As time progressed, Mr. Dach added to his first purchase, and at the time of his death was the largest land-holder in the town of Franklin, and was successful beyond expectation. He first lived in a log house, 12x16 feet in size, and at present the improvements on the Dach lands are not surpassed by any in the town. The brother, Christian, died Jan. 26, 1875, and our subject April 28, 1876. The widow and the two sons reside on the farm, which now consists of 557 acres. Jacob, the eldest son, was born in Alsace-Loraine, Jan. 10, 1846, and married Lizzie, daughter of John A. Gross. They have three children—Mary, Lizzie and Jacob. Daniel, the younger son, was born in Alsace-Loraine, Feb. 15, 1849 and is yet unmarried.

Ole T. Torgar resides on section 28, and is a son of Torgar O. Fortney, the earliest Norwegian settler in the town of Franklin, having located here in 1854. Torgar O. Fortney was born in Bergen stift, Norway, in April, 1807, and was married in his native land. In 1848 he emigrated to the United States, and located at Cottage Grove, Dane Co., Wis., where he bought and improved a farm. On June 15, 1854, he came into Vernon county, and purchased of the government a tract of land lying in the two towns, Franklin and Kickapoo. He erected a house on the part that lies on section 15, of Franklin town, and resided there until his death, which sad event occurred Feb. 18, 1880. When he, Fortney, came to Vernon county his family consisted of a wife and four children — Ole T., Cordelia, Daniel, who now resides on the home farm, and Christina, the youngest. Ole T. Torgar was born in Norway, Oct. 11, 1838, and located on his present farm of 240 acres, June 6, 1871. He has been twice married. His first wife was Susan Larson, with whom he lived for fourteen years. She was the mother of seven children—Torgar T. O., Carrie, Jane C., Olena, Louisa, Susanna and Soren. His present wife was Johanna Solonson. They have four children—Ellen C., Samuel O., Maria and George A.

William Smith, an industrious and enterprising farmer, owns a farm of 102 acres, on section 17. He was born in Vinton Co., Ohio, March 19, 1851. His father, John Smith, came from La Fayette Co., Wis., to this county in the fall of 1855. He first located in the town of Viroqua, but in December, 1866, removed to the town of Franklin, where he now resides on section 17. William Smith settled in Franklin town in 1875, purchasing his farm of Daniel Aikens. This farm was first settled by William P. Hayter, who is now a resident of the town of Viroqua. When Mr. Smith bought the land, only twenty acres was improved. He has developed fifty-seven acres into fertile fields, and put good and substantial improvements thereon. Mr. Smith did not desire to see the great Smith family disappear from off the face of the earth. He married Melinda J. Aikens, also a native of Ohio. They have two children —Daniel Elmer and Benjamin F.

Philip Biddison came to this county in June, 1856. He resides on section 22, town 12 north, of range 4 west, and made his location soon after coming to the county, purchasing a quarter section of State land. Mr. Biddison was born in Baltimore Co., Md., near the city of Baltimore, in 1815, but was principally reared in eastern Ohio. His father, William Biddison, was a native of Maryland, and after removing to Ohio, located on a farm where he resided till his death, at the advanced age of ninety years. Mr. Biddison grew to manhood on a farm. He was married at the age of twenty-three and about that time left farming and settled in the village of Oakfield, Ohio, and engaged in manufacturing. Since he came to Vernon county, he has been engaged exclusively in agricultural pursuits. He was married in Ohio to Elizabeth McFarland. They have five children—James E., Sarah J., Samuel D., Sena A. and Philip, all natives of Ohio. Mr. Biddison has 340 acres of land, about 250 of which is under cultivation.

John Henderson settled on section 35, in 1856, on the farm, where S. M. Honaker now resides. He was born in the parish of Dalton, in the south of Scotland, July 6, 1806, and came over to America when a young man. His father died in Scotland, in 1817, and his mother came to this country with her son, and lived with him until her death, which occurred Oct. 12, 1863, at the age of ninety-seven years. Mr. Henderson finally settled at Monument Rock, Franklin town, in this county, where he died Jan. 1, 1878. He was a well-read man, taking pride in the possession of a large and well selected library, containing mostly those works relating to science and religion. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a punctual attendant at its services. On Dec. 9, 1837, Mr. Henderson was married in Delaware Co., Ohio, to Irena Page, a native of Broome Co., N. Y., born Sept. 22, 1819. The fruits of this union were the birth of seven children, only two of whom are living—John W., who owns the old homestead, and Irena, wife of William O. Johnson. Thomas, the eldest son, died in 1854, aged sixteen years, while attending school at Dubuque, Iowa. Alexander was a member of company F, 8th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and died at St. Louis, Mo., July 15, 1863, of wounds received in battle. John W. married Hattie, daughter of Oscar Henry, and resides on the home farm of 160 acres.

Felix K. Van Wagner was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., in 1827. He married Mary Gorsline in 1848; removed to Calhoun Co., Ill., in October of the same year; remained there until 1852; removed to Grant Co., Wis.; lived there until 1856; moved to Vernon county and settled on section 13, town of Franklin. Remained there until 1864. Moved with his family to Viroqua, in said county of Vernon; enlisted in the 42d regiment as a sergeant and was detached from the regiment as chief of military police. Remained in that position until discharged at the close of the war, when he came home and remained in Viroqua until 1867. Bought the farm of 120 acres on section 18,

town of Franklin, of John Anderson, first settled on by Mr. Eaton. Mr. and Mrs. Van Wagner have had eight children, of whom three died in infancy, one, at the age of twenty, and four are now living—Sarah, wife of Alexander Morrison, deceased; Mary, wife of Daniel Wise; Augustus and Etta.

William Cox resides on section 15, where he located many years ago. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1835, and when quite young was taken to raise by his uncle, Rev. John Whitworth. In 1850 Mr Cox accompanied Mr. Whitworth and family to the United States. They came to Wisconsin and located in Vernon county. Mr. Cox purchased the farm where he now resides from Mr. Whitworth. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Champion Hills, Jackson, siege of Vicksburg, Altoona, and with "Sherman marched down to the sea." He married Jane J., daughter of Abner Conkling. Mr. and Mrs. Cox have four children—Lester W., Edwin W., Erminine B. and Harvey T.

George W. Bush is a life resident of Vernon county. His father, George Bush, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, in 1810. He was there married and five children were born to him. His wife died and he again married, this time to Mrs. Eliza (Sult) Connor. They came to Vernon county in 1853 and settled at Viroqua. Mr. Bush was landlord of the old "Buckeye House" for several years, and afterward carried the mail and passengers on the stage route between Viroqua and Prairie du Chien. In 1859 he came to Franklin town and bought a farm on section 20, where he lived till his death, Feb. 28, 1875. The children by his first wife were named Elias, Morris, Mary, Emily and Theodore. His second wife was the mother of three children—Harriet, Sarah and George. Mrs. Bush died in December, 1868. George W. was born on the old homestead, April 26, 1857. He married Bibalonia, daughter of John Smith, born in Vernon county. They have one son—Charles. On the death of his father, Mr. Bush came into possession of the home farm, which contains 120 acres.

Oscar S. Henry has been a resident of Vernon county since 1851, and is classed among the pioneers. He resides on section 18, of this town, on a farm owned by H. D. Williams, of Viroqua. Mr. Henry was formerly a resident of Illinois, and in the fall of 1851 came to Vernon county with his brother, Samuel. In the summer of 1852 he bought some land in the town of Viroqua and converted it into a good farm. This farm he subsequently sold to Ralph Hall, and it is now owned by his widow, Mrs. Martha Hall. In 1862 Mr. Henry came into the town of Franklin, where he has since resided. He has been a justice of the peace for four years. While living in Illinois Mr. Henry married Lucinda Bowman, who was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., Jan. 3, 1835. She went to Illinois with her father, Nicholas Bowman, when eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Henry are the parents of three children—Mary, wife of Albert Brott; Phineas S. and Hattie, wife of John Henderson.

Knudt Hoverson made a settlement in this town in 1862. He was born in Bergen Stift, Norway, in 1806, and came to America the same year, he located in Vernon county. His second son, Martin, preceded him one year, and enlisted in Dane Co., Wis., in the 11th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and died at St. Louis, Mo., while in the service. The eldest son, Hans, remained in Norway. Mr. Hoverson first purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, and since then has increased his farm to 320 acres. Mr. Hoverson has two children living in the town of Franklin—Martha and Einar. The latter was born in Norway, in 1845, and lives with his father on the home farm. He married Betsey S. Thompson, and they have four children living—Knudt M., Johanna, Sever and Rodina. They lost one son, Soren.

William Clements settled here in 1863. He was born in Athens Co., Ohio, and is a son of John Clements, who died in 1880. His paternal grandfather, James Clements, was the first settler in Athens Co., Ohio. He was a Spaniard by birth, and educated for the priesthood. He never adopted his profession. William Clements located in the town of Franklin, and purchased forty acres of land of Thomas Munyon. The remainder of his land he bought from Eleph Divie. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas Munyon, and they have nine children, seven sons and two daughters.

Luther Thompson resides on section 33, where he settled in 1863. He was born in December, 1839, in Bergen Stift, Norway, where he lived until 1855, and then came to America with his father, Andrew Thompson; the latter died in the town of Franklin, Vernon county, in March, 1875. Mr. Thompson located here in 1863, purchasing a farm of 140 acres of Nelson Cady. Mrs. Thompson came to this country with her father, John O. Sveen, in 1857. The latter died in Christiana town, in December, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have five children—Thomas, Ida Marie, Albert Julius, Emma Jonnete and Thea Chrisdine. Osten Johnson Sveen, who resides with Mr. Thompson, was born in Gudbrands Dalen, Norway, Feb. 11, 1842, and came to the United States with his father, John Anderson Sveen, in 1857. The latter died in the town of Christiana, Dec. 7, 1878. Mr. Osten J. Sveen has no family

Hon. Christian Ellefson came to this town in 1866, and now owns a farm of 280 acres on section 14. Mr. Ellefson was born in Lysters, Bergen Stift, Norway, April 20, 1842. He received a good education, and in 1860 emigrated to America. He lived for a short time each in Dane Co., Wis., Dakota, Sioux City, Iowa, and in 1866, settled in the town of Franklin. Mr. Ellefson has been a prominent citizen for many years. He has been chairman of the town board and treasurer and assessor of the town. He was committed to the interests of the republican party until 1878, when he was the nominee of the independent part for assemblyman. He was elected, and re-elected in 1882, by 288 majority out of a total of 1,543 votes. His wife was Lena Michael, a native of Norway. They have six children.

Ferdinand Getter was one of the settlers that located in the spring of 1855. He leased a farm for several years, and finally bought land in the town of Sterling. He purchased his present farm of James Hornby in February, 1869. He now owns 179 acres. Mr. Getter was born at Schoharie, Schoharie Co., N. Y., in 1815. He is a son of William Getter, who was of German parentage and born on board the vessel which brought the famous La Fayette to our shores to espouse the cause of American liberty. He located with his parents in eastern New York, and died at Schoharie Court House at the age of over 100 years. Ferdinand Getter learned the tailor trade in his native town, and followed it for many years, both before and after coming to Wisconsin. When he came to Vernon county he was very poor, and his wife assisted him at his trade for many years, and to her is entitled much of the credit of their success in life. Mrs. Getter's maiden name was Ellen Van Dusen, of Holland descent. Her father, Jacob Van Dusen, died when she was quite a child, and her mother still resides with her daughter at an advanced age. Mr. and Mrs. Getter are the parents of twelve children, eight living—Helen J., divorced wife of James Hornby; Margaret, wife of Robert Hornby; Benjamin, John, William, Samantha, wife of James Latshaw; Cornelia, wife of Willard Bowman and Carrie, wife of William Jackson. Three of their sons were in the Union army. Ferdinand was a member of the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and accidently killed at Jackson, Miss.

Ole E. Soloi, who resides on section 33, and is better known as Ole Ericson, was born in the village of Havslo, Bergen Stift, Norway, July 4, 1833. He came to the Uuited States in 1856,

and located at Sparta, in Monroe Co., Wis., and afterward at West Prairie, in the town of Sterling, in this county. In 1861 he married Betsey A. Thompson, and in March, 1866, he came to the town of Franklin, and bought a farm of Mr. Richards, one of the early settlers of the town. This farm now comprises 120 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Soloi have four children—Edward E., born at Sparta, Wis., in 1862; Thom, in the town of Sterling, in 1864; Henry, born in 1866 and Peter, in the town of Franklin, in 1869.

Benjamin Williams resides on section 18, town 12 north, of range 4 west. He bought his farm in 1876 of T. B. Appell. He settled in Vernon county in 1866. Mr. Williams was born in South Wales in 1839. He there learned the trade of a blacksmith and came to the United States in 1866, the same year that he settled in the county. He located first at De Soto, and engaged in work at his taade, and went to Viroqua in 1872, where he also followed blacksmithing. His farm contains ninety-five acres. He married in Wales, Elizabeth Deere. Her father was John Deere. Mr. Williams' father also bore the Christian name of John. Mr. Williams at his present location is engaged in farming and blacksmithing.

N. Christian Peterson is the present wagon maker at Liberty Pole. He was born in Denmark, in 1835, and there learned the wagon maker's trade. He emigrated to the United States in 1869, and came direct to the town of Franklin, succeeding Peter Jacobson in the wagon business. Mr. Peterson is an excellent workman, a man of intelligence and highly respected by the entire community.

Knudt Peterson is a member of the firm of Fortney & Peterson, dealers in general merchandise, at the village of Liberty Pole. He was born at Utica, Crawford Co., Wis., in 1855. His father, Nels Peterson Bjorkem, was a native of Norway and an early settler in Crawford county. Mr. Peterson came to Liberty Pole in 1874 and was a clerk for Williams Bros., until 1878. He was then employed in the same capacity by Geo. H. Tate & Son, of Readstown and remained with them one and a half years. Returning to Liberty Pole, he clerked for C. D. Williams until Nov. 1, 1882, when the present firm purchased the stock of goods of Mr. Williams and have succeeded him in the business. Mr. Daniel T. Fortney, the senior member of the firm, is a native of Kickapoo town, this county; is a farmer.

Andrew Burns is an old settler of the State of Wisconsin, but has resided in Vernon county only a few years. He was born in county Kildare, Ireland, about 1822, and lived there until twelve years of age. His parents, Peter and Margaret Burns, died in Ireland, and Andrew came to the United States when about seventeen years of age, with his brother Thomas, who now resides in Chicago. Mr. Burns first stopped at Fall River, Mass., where he worked in the fruit factory of Andrew Robinson and made his home with his employer. In 1846 he located in the town of Cedarburg, now in Ozaukee county where he lived seven years. In June, 1854, he removed to Crawford county and seven years later to the town of Bangor, La Crosse county. In1876 he came to Vernon county and bought of Eldad Rogers, a farm on section 30, now comprising 220 acres of land and well improved. Mr. Burns was married in New Jersey to Sarah Booth, who is a native of Hudson, N. Y., and removed to New Jersey with her parents when five years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Burns have had eight children, three living—Sarah, wife of Edward Riley, of La Crosse, Marcella and Peter J. Louis N., Mary A., Lucinda and two infants are dead.

Abram Newville owns a farm of 120 acres on section 14. He is a son of Jeremiah Newville, who was one of the pioneers of Franklin town. Mr. Newville was born near Albany, N. Y., in 1810, where he was reared. He married Rachel Lawson and removed to Michigan. He subsequently located in Illinois, and went from there to Vernon Co., Wis. He settled on the farm his son Abram now owns, where he lived till his death, which occurred about 1860. Abram was born in New York and came to Vernon county some years after his father. He married Mrs. Jane (Davis) Pidcock, a native of Pennsylvania. They have one son, Jeremiah, who resides on a farm near his parents. Mrs. Newville had three children by her former husband—Hugh, Letitia and John C.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE TOWN OF GENOA.

Genoa was organized in the spring of 1870, a portion of it being taken from the town of Bergen and a part from the town of Wheatland. It is bounded on the north by the towns of Bergen and Harmony, on the east by the towns of Harmony and Sterling, on the south by Wheatland town, and on the west by the Mississippi river. It is seven miles in distance north and south and six miles from east to west, and comprises territory embraced within congressional townships 12 and 13, ranges 6 and 7 west. It contains an area of about 24,000 acres.

The town is watered by two branches of the Bad Ax river; the north branch entering the town on section 36, passing through a corner of this section into section 37 of town 12, where it unites with the other branch which enters the town on section 17, runs northwest through sections 17, 8, 7 and 12, where it makes a junction with the north branch. From section 12, the main stream courses through sections 11, 14, 15 and 16 and there unites with the Mississippi river.

There are many spring brooks arising along the bluffs of the Bad Ax river, which are tributaries to this stream. The general surface of this town is extremely rolling. The valleys and table lands being the best farming lands.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settler was William Tibbitts, who entered 160 acres of land on section 22, in 1850. He was followed the same year by Elias Shisler, who entered 120 acres of land on section 22, where he was still living in 1884.

John Ott, one of the wealthiest farmers of the town of Genoa, entered forty acres of land on section 34, in 1853.

Ferdinand Guscatte settled where Genoa now stands, in 1855, and engaged in the manufacture of wagons.

William Stephenson came in 1856 and purchased eighty acres of land on section 17, where he was still living in 1884.

Charles Brown came the same year (1856), and entered forty acres of land on section 20.

John Fopper came in 1857 and settled on section 28, of which he purchased eighty acres.

Maj. N. W. Hamilton was one of the settlers of 1858. He was born in Fayette Co., Ind., in 1820, and settled in the town of Jefferson, this county, in 1854, where he entered land which he afterward sold to Ramsey and Miller, and then entered eighty acres of land in the town of Genoa, on section 4, moving there in 1858. Mr. Hamilton was married to Alnudia Clark, in 1853, by whom he has four children—Emla, Isabell, Irila and Jenett. He was the first school treasurer of the town of Genoa, and held the office for eleven years.

Among others who settled in this town at a later date were: James M. Bailey, James Stevenson, W. H. Knower and Elijah Powell.

James M. Bailey was born in 1815, in Virgina, and settled in Vernon county, near Viroqua, in 1849. He was under sheriff, and at the following election was elected the second sheriff of the county. He moved to the town of Genoa in 1877, and settled on section 19, town 12, range 7 west. He was married to Elizabeth

Clark in 1847, by whom he has three children—William, Jennie and Edward.

James Stevenson was born in Ireland, in 1840, and came to America in 1857, and to the town of Genoa in 1863, where twenty years later he was still living on a farm of 200 acres on section 12. He was married in 1862 to Isabel Hamilton, of Vernon county.

Elijah Powell, who was born in 1820, in Mercer Co., Ohio, came to this town in 1865, and purchased 160 acres of land on section 4, town 13, range 7. He was married in 1842 to Mary Rayner, who died in 1843. In 1844 Mr. Powell married Martha McKee, who died in 1854, and in 1862 he again married a Miss Shelby. Mr. Powell has been the father of seven children.

W. H. Knower, one of the most intelligent farmers in Vernon county, was born in 1830, in Rockfield, Mass. At ten years of age he moved with his parents to the city of New York, where he received a thorough education, and came west in 1850 to better his health. He taught school in Milwaukee in the winter of 1850–51, and in 1855 came to Vernoncounty and taught school until 1865, when he settled on his farm in the town of Genoa, on sections 1, 2 and 11, of township 12, range 7 west, where he owns 240 acres in one tract. He was married in 1852 to Mary Elliott, of Bangor, Maine, by whom he has had four children—George, Charles, Susie and Franklin.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first couple married in the town of Genoa, was David Hastings and Miss Kelsie, in 1856.

The first birth of a white child was J. W., son of Samuel and Martha Kelsie, in 1854.

The first school was taught in 1855 in a log house, afterward used for a hotel.

The first religious services were held at the residence of Samuel Kelsie, by Rev. Delap, in 1856.

The first school house was built, in 1860, on section 28, where the village of Genoa now stands.

The first school was taught by Sarah A. Bacus, in 1856.

The first death in the town was David Hastings, in 1856.

ORGANIC.

The first election of what is known as the town of Genoa, was held April 7, 1860, at the village school house of Genoa. The first officers were: E. Page, chairman, Peter Shumway and Willis Masker, supervisors; William Burlock, clerk; John Greeman, treasurer; Willis Masker, assessor. Officers of 1883: William Riley, chairman, William Hall and August Vegline, supervisors; Mathew Monti, clerk; Barnard Gadola, treasurer; John Carpenter, assessor.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the town of Genoa was taught by Sarah A Bacus, in 1855, on section 28.

In 1884 the town contained six school buildings, valued at $2,200. The town at this date had a school population of 357.

RELIGIOUS.

The only religious societies in Genoa, in 1884, was that of the Roman Catholic, who organized at an early day. This Church is made up largely of Italians. Other denominations have held meetings from time to time at school houses.

POSTOFFICES.

Genoa postoffice was established in 1854, on section 29, on the site of the village of Genoa. The first postmaster was Jacob Kelsie, who was after a time succeeded by James McGrath, Mathew Monti, Wm. Burlock and J. B. Bozola, who was postmaster in 1884.

Romance postoffice was established in 1854, on section 6. The first postmaster was John Tewalt. He was succeeded by William Fox, who still held the office in 1884.

THE VILLAGE OF GENOA.

This village was laid out and platted by Joseph Monti, on section 28, in the year 1854,

and was first named Bad Ax, after the only river in the town of Genoa. For a time it was thought the name Bad Ax quite appropriate as the people were for years kept in fear, by the bad characters that constantly infested their vicinity, from off the Mississippi river, as it was quite a steam-boat landing for steamers, plying up and down the river. However, in 1868, the people thought the name had a tendancy to keep the town from being settled by the better class of people, and hence they changed the name. The original plat of the village contained twenty-one blocks. Block 12 was donated to the public, for public uses, by Joseph Monti, and afterward became the public square

The first house was erected by David Hastings, in 1853. The first store was opened by Joseph Monti, in 1854. A wagon shop was put in operation at once; also a blacksmith shop run by Ferdinand Guscetti.

A hotel was erected in 1854 by Sylvester Lupi.

The first saw mill was built by William Officer, in 1858. The business of the place in 1884 was represented as follows: Mathew Monti and Albert Zabolia, dealers in dry goods, boots, shoes, crockery and hardware.

J. P. Monti, proprietor of the only hotel.

Albert Guscetti, blacksmith and wagon shop.

The St. Charles Catholic Church was organized in 1862, and a church edifice erected two years later, in the village of Genoa. This building was 24x36 feet, and cost $500. The Church was organized by Rev. Father Marko. In 1884 the Church numbered about 300.

CEMETERIES.

There were two cemeteries within the town of Genoa, in 1884. One situated a half mile from Bad Ax city (Genoa), on land owned at an early day by Samuel Kelsie, on section 21. The other burying place was on section 28.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Edward Cox, one of the pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Indiana, in 1832. In 1848 he removed to Prairie du Chien, Wis., and lived there for two years. In 1850 he settled near Springville, in the town of Jefferson, and since then has resided in several different townships. He has followed boating most of his life. Mr. Cox was a member of the 1st Wisconsin Battery during the late war, and was honorably discharged in 1865. He was married, in 1855, to Matilda Powell. Of their four children, two are living—Sherman and Eddie. Roscoe and Rosa are deceased. Mr. Cox lost his wife in 1871, and in 1874 married Caroline Oliver. He owns two lots in the city of La Crosse, Wis, and his wife owns sixty acres of land in the town of Genoa, and three lots in the village of Genoa.

John Ott, one of the pioneers of the town of Genoa, was born in Germany, in 1820. When ten years of age he came to America with his parents and they first settled in Butler Co., Penn. Mr. Ott remained there for twenty-three years, growing to manhood and obtaining a good common school education. In 1853 he came to Vernon Co., Wis., and finally entered forty acres of land on section 34, in town 13 north, and range 7 west, which subsequently became the town of Genoa. The country was new and sparsely inhabited, and the trials and privations of a pioneer life were many. Mr. Ott was willing to accept his share of hard work and labored manfully, early and late, to clear the farm and make a home for his family. His landed possessions increased slowly and he now owns 200 acres. In 1840 he was married in Pennsylvania to Barbara Smith. This union was blessed with four children, three of whom are living—Henry, Mary, wife of Lemuel Gorman, and Charles, who married Clementina Monti. Samuel is deceased. Mrs. Ott died in 1877, and in 1881, Mr. Ott was again married to Catharine Lupi.

Elias Shisler has been a resident of Genoa town for twenty-nine years. He was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Feb. 12, 1827, and was married to Nancy Barnes March 27, 1844. After this

union he removed with his family to Allamakee Co., Iowa, resided there two years and assisted in the survey of the county. He then came to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, and located in the village of Victory, town of Wheatland, and while a resident there served as chairman of the board of town trustees, and two years as constable. He has resided in the town of Genoa since it was organized as a town, and after traveling over fourteen States and three territories has arrived at the conclusion that Vernon county meets his approval better than any county he has ever visited. Mr. Shisler has been thrice married. His second wife was Eliza Conroad. They were married Nov. 5, 1855. He had one child by his first marriage, four by the second union and three children by his present wife, all dead but one son of the second wife, Amos by name.

Ferdinand Guscetti, who lives on section 28, came to this town in 1855. He was living in Jo Daviess Co., Ill., and there carried on the manufacture of wagons. At the earnest solicitation of Joseph Monti, of this town, he was induced to come to Genoa and became a settler in 1855. He located in Genoa village when the country around was quite a wilderness and was a wagon maker there for many years. He finally sold his shop and bought eighty-two acres of land on section 28, where he now lives. In 1864 Mr. Guscetti enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery and served through the war. He was married in 1840 to Mary Buffi. Of seven children born to them only three are living—Matthew, Juliett, wife of Daniel Biffi, and Catharine.

Charles Brown, who was one of the early settler of the town of Genoa, was born in Ireland, in 1829, and in 1849 emigrated to the United States, and first settled in the city of New York. He followed boating from that port to New Orleans for two years and then moved to White Co., Ind., but not being satisfied, went still further west, and located in Lake Co., Ill., where he remained two years, and then removed to Genoa, and entered forty acres of land on section 20, where he still resides. Mr. Brown has increased his farm to 120 acres. He was united in marriage in 1855 to Mary Campbell. They have seven children—John, Isabella, Margaret, Franklin, William, Irena and Romanso. Mr. Brown was a member of the 18th regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, having enlisted in 1864, and discharged in 1865. His father, John Brown, was born in 1800 and is now living in Scotland.

Charles Ott, who came to the town of Genoa when but nine years of age, was born in Butler Co., Penn., in 1847. His parents, John and Barbara (Smith) Ott, are natives respectively of Germany and Pennsylvania. When six years of age he came to Vernon county with his parents, and in 1856 located here. Mr. Ott has always been engaged in farming, and owns 180 acres of land on section 23, under a high state of cultivation. He has been supervisor of roads since 1880. Mr. Ott was united in marriage, in 1872, to Clementina Monti, of this town. They are the parents of four children—Ida V., Mary R., Jessie E. and Charles M.

William Pulham was born in Suffolkshire, England, in 1830, and when but six years of age emigrated to the Dominion of Canada, and there remained until about the year 1840, when he removed to Piscataqua Co., N. H., and was a resident there about sixteen years. He then came to Vernon county and entered land in the town of Wheatland, which he sold in 1860, and afterward, in the same year, purchased 120 acres of land in the town of Genoa, on sections 23 and 24, of town 12 north, of range 7 west. Mr. Pulham was married to Nisa E. Sandon, of Vernon county, in 1862. They have reared eight children—Agnes, Ellen, Laura, George, David, Frank, Mary and Margaret. Agnes is the wife of Samuel Owen, of the town of Jefferson. Mr. Pulham enlisted in January, 1864, in the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and was discharged in July, 1865, at the close of the war. His mother, Elizabeth

Pulham, is now living in Genoa town, at the ripe age of seventy-nine years. His father, William Pulham, was also a native of England, and died in New Hampshire, about 1840.

William Stevenson, a native of the "land of Shamrock," located here in 1856. He was born in Ireland in 1820, and resided there till twenty-four years of age. In 1844 he emigrated to the United States, and first settled in New York city. In 1855 he removed to Rock Co., Wis., but lived there only one year. In 1856 he came to the town of Genoa, and purchased of James McCormick eight acres of land on section 17, where he has since resided. Mr. Stevenson has been industrious and energetic, and at present owns 120 acres of land. In 1863 he came forward and enlisted in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served faithfully until he was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He returned home and has since devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. In 1854 he was united in marriage to Mary E. Davidson, and two children were born to them—John W., who married Josie Graham, and Sarah M. Mr. Stevenson suffered the loss of his most estimable wife and was again married, in 1859, to Elizabeth Miller. Five children have been given to this union—Lizzie M., Henry A., Ellen R., Anna M. and James E.

John Fopper, one of the largest land owners in the town of Genoa, located here in 1857. He is a native of Switzerland, where he was born in 1818. He received a thorough education in his native land and is able to converse fluently in five different languages, including that of Switzerland. In 1857, he resolved to see the far famed America, and accordingly came over the same year. After landing at New York, he came westward to Wisconsin, and sought a new home. He finally concluded to locate in the new settlement, in what is now the town of Genoa, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 28, where he resided nine years. Mr. Fopper then sold the eighty acres of land aforesaid and bought 400 acres of the Hecks estate on sections 11 and 14, town 12, range 7. Mr. Fopper is unmarried,but has lived with and supported his widowed mother during his residence here. Mrs. Fopper is now at the advanced age of eighty-four years, and Mr. Fopper shows his filial affection by trying to make her declining days pleasant and comfortable. Mr. Fopper has also two widowed sisters residing in this town—Mrs. Barbara Gess and Mrs. Anna Barbara Gess.

William S. Riley, one of the well known citizens of the town of Genoa, was born at Marietta, Ohio, in 1845, and remained there until 1858. In the latter year he came to Vernon Co., Wis., and located at Viroqua. In 1861 he enlisted in company I, 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged in 1864. He was captain of the Vernon County Light Guards for two years and under-sheriff for one term. For the past three years Mr. Riley has been chairman of the town board of supervisors. He is a contractor and builder by occupation and has erected some of the finest buildings and residences in Vernon Co. In 1882 Mr. Riley was married to Anna Lupi. They have one child—Augusta C.

Albert F. Kuehn, one of the earliest settlers of the town of Genoa, was born in Prussia in 1830 and at the age of nineteen left his home for a new one in a land that had only been a a Nation for seventy-three years. He spent two years wandering from place to place over the new republic and finally became satisfied that Vernon Co., Wis., would be the location for a permanent home. He bought eighty acres on section 4, town 12, range 7 west, town of Genoa in 1860, and has since increased his first purchase to 360 acres. In 1864 he entered the army of his adopted country, enlisting in the 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. While in the service he was wounded in the head and one shoulder and received an honorable discharge at the close of the Rebellion. Mr. Kuehn has been a member of the town board

for four years and town assessor for ten years. In 1863 he was married to Julia Misjahl and nine children have been sent to bless their union—Lina, Elizabeth, Bertha, Albert, Ernest, Huldah, Sophia, Edward and an infant son.

Mathew Monti, a son of Joseph Monti, the founder of the village of Genoa, and its present postmaster, was born in New York city in 1840. His father was a native of Switzerland, born in 1811, and emigrated to the United States in 1832, locating in New York city. Mr. Monti's mother was born in Philadelphia, Penn., in 1811, and died in Vernon Co., Wis., in 1880. When Mr. Monti was but a year old his parents moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1842 to St. Louis, Mo.; thence to Galena, Ill., where they resided until 1863. In 1853 Mr. Joseph Monti came to Vernon county and entered 296 acres of land in the town of Genoa. Being of an enterprising disposition he laid out and platted the village of Bad Ax (now Genoa), which he named after the county of Bad Ax (now Vernon). Mr. Mathew Monti now owns twenty acres of land on section 28 and village property. In 1882 he engaged in mercantile pursuits and now owns a stock of goods valued at $2,000. Mr. Monti has served his neighbors and citizens as clerk of the school district six years, justice of the peace ten years; was also town treasurer and has been town clerk and postmaster of Genoa for seven years. He was united in marriage in 1864 to Almira Greenman and three children have been born to them—Leona, Augustus and Blanche.

John Carpenter came to this county in 1856 and resided in the vicinity of Victory for five years. He then settled in the town of Harmony and there resided until 1868, then moved to the town of Genoa, where he owns 278 acres of land. He was born in New York in 1833, and in 1861 married Marcia Ann Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, who accompanied her parents to this county and located in the town of Harmony, in 1853. In 1864 Mr. Carpenter enlisted in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. His parents came to this county in 1866 and settled at Victory, in Wheatland town. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are the parents of six children—Frank, Louisa, wife of George Van Vleet, Robert, Roxania, Agnes and Ross.

E. L. Oakes, who became a resident of the town of Genoa in 1867, was born in "the good old State of Maine," (Kennebec county), in 1821. In 1827, when he was but six years of age, his parents removed to Penobscot county, in the same State, and in 1848 they located in Worcester Co., Mass. In 1855 Mr. Oakes came out to see this western country, and appearing satisfied that the State of Wisconsin would develop rapidly and take her place among the foremost States of the Union, (like his native State), he settled at Springville, Adams county, where he remained twelve years. A desire to see more of this wonderful country, and perhaps to better his fortunes, led him to seek Vernon county. He there purchased of Amos Moore 166 acres of land on sections 4 and 34, in towns 12 and 13 north, range 7 west. Mr. Oakes resides on his farm on section 4, about three miles southeast of the village of Genoa. While a resident of Springville, Adams county, he enlisted in the 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. Mr. Oakes was married in 1848 to Polly D. Newton. They were the parents of one child—Clara, now the wife of Anson Elliott. Mrs. Oakes departed this life in 1851, and two years later Mr. Oakes married Armanda S. Newton. They have been given seven children, three living—Florence J., wife of Charles F. Smith; Jessie S. and Horace E. Ella died in 1859, Bertha in 1861, Frank E. in 1865 and Alice in 1869.

John H. Seal was born in Pennsylvania in 1840, and in 1842 accompanied his parents to Ohio. In 1845 they removed to Du Page Co., Ill., and in 1850 to Vernon Co, Wis. They first settled at Springville, and in 1870 Mr. Seal

came to the town of Genoa and purchased forty acres of land on section 3, of town 13 north, range 7 west, which he has increased to 200 acres and all free from incumbrance. Mr. Seal was married in 1860 to Emily P. Tainter, and their union was blessed with one child, now living—Edmund. Mrs. Seal died in 1863, on the 19th day of January. He was again married in 1869 to Julia E. Shrouf, who died in 1872. Mr. Seal the third time united in marriage to Sarah J. Irvin, by whom he had five children, all now dead. His wife died in 1879. His fourth and present wife was Paulina Mundsack, whom he married in 1882. Mr. Seal is a very prosperous farmer. He is the father of two living children—Edmund and John E.

J. W. Clayson was born in New York, in 1822, and in 1855 removed to Richland Co., Wis., where he entered land, which he afterward sold. In 1860 he went to Crawford Co., Wis., where he remained seventeen years, and then came to the town of Genoa, where he purchased eighty acres of land from George P. Griffin, on section 24, of town 12 north, of range 7 west. He has since increased his farm to 101 acres. He was married to Margaret J. Davis, and two of their children are now living —Charles and George. Mrs. Clayson died in 1857, in Richland county, and in 1860 Mr. Clayson was married to Jane Mullen. In 1864 Mr. Clayson enlisted in the 52d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged in 1865.

Albert Zabolie was born in Italy in 1858, and emigrated with his parents to the United States in 1877, and settled in the village of Genoa, where his father and himself opened a dry goods and general store. They now carry the largest stock of goods in the village, valued at about $5,000. Mr. Zabolie was married in 1882 to Rosa Starlochi, of Vernon county. Mr. Zabolie's father, August Zabolie, is still living in the village of Genoa. Albert is doing a prosperous business in his line of trade.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE TOWN OF GREENWOOD.

This town comprises township 13, range 1 east, which is in the southeastern corner of the county, bounded on its north by Hillsborough, on its east by Sauk county, on its south by Richland county and on its west by the town of Union. Like most of the land in Vernon county, this is rough and broken. The land that is tillable is of a fertile quality. The town is well supplied with small streams, among which are Pine and Baraboo rivers, and their numerous tributaries. The northern portion of the town is traversed by the Baraboo and its branches, while the southern part is coursed by the Pine and its branches. There are a great number of fine springs throughout the town. At one time the hop crop was an important business in this section of the county; but of late years they are not so much raised. At one time just after the war, when hops brought fifty cents a pound, nearly every land owner went into this speculation; planted out large hop yards and erected the necessary buildings. This, together with a big crop, put the price down to a shilling a pound; and by this reverse caused a loss of many thousands of dollars to this section of Vernon county. In 1884 but few hops were produced within the county. But at this date, and for two or three years previous, tobacco culture has been entered into extensively in various parts of the county.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

This is one of the earliest towns settled in the eastern part of the county. The first settler was William Van Alstine, who came in as early as 1851, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 23. In 1852 he sold to Isaac Meek, who came from Indiana. Meek only remained about a year, then sold out and returned to Indiana, where he was ordained a Wesleyan Methodist minister. Van Alstine went to Oregon.

In 1884 the oldest settler living in the town was William Jordan, a native of Pennsylvania, but who came here from Indiana with Isaac Meek, and settled on section 23; a few years later he moved to Missouri, but soon returned to his location on section 23.

The first land entry in the town was made by James B. Avery, a resident of Baraboo, who entered the south half of section 22. The patent bears date January, 1852, but is said to have been entered some time previous to this.

R. G. Story came, in 1854, and settled on section 27. He sold out and in 1856 moved away.

Caleb and John S. Shreve came in 1853. Caleb settled on section 22, where he was still living in 1884. John at first located on section 23, but later moved to section 15.

There was a village laid out, in the fall of 1855, by James R. Strait and Richard Smith, called Debello. It was situated on the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 22. Mr. Smith came here from Indiana in the fall of 1855, and brought a stock of goods with him and opened a store, which he operated a year or so, when he closed up and removed to Missouri. He sold his store to Morgan and Joseph Hansbury.

Daniel Bates opened a blacksmith shop in 1856. He engaged in this about a year and then moved away.

A postoffice was established in 1855. James R. Strait was appointed postmaster. In 1856 he was succeeded by Moses Jordan. In 1884 Elias Kegley was postmaster, keeping the office at his house on section 27. It is on the route from Hillsborough to Rockbridge. This vicinity is still known as Debello, although the village, once so flourishing, with lots selling for $50 each, is now converted into farms, and corn, wheat and oats grow in what was the principal thoroughfare of this place.

In 1882 Andrew Volstad opened a store on section 23, which has proved a great convenience to the farmers in the vicinity.

Below is given the names of many of the pioneers of this town, together with the date and location of their settlement, brief sketches, etc. No special attention is paid as to the exact order in which they came, simply a record of the facts connected with their settlement:

Horace A. Rhinehart, of New York, came in 1856 and bought land on section 34. He afterward moved to section 27.

William Hynes, an Englishman by birth, came in 1856, settling on section 34.

George Jepson, of England, settled on section 34, in 1855; he sold the following year and moved to the town of Union.

Joseph Martin, a native of New York State, came in 1854, and located on the southwest quarter of section 26. He was an unmarried man and lived alone, working his place until 1864, when he sold to Einar Nelson and moved to Iowa.

William Shreve, a native of Pennsylvania, in company with his three sons, Eden, Hezekiah and James H., came to the town from Ohio, in the fall of 1855. The father settled on the northwest quarter of section 22, where he remained till the time of his death, in 1870. Hezekiah and Eden lived at home several years, after which the former moved to section 22, and the latter to Storm Lake, Iowa. James H. settled on section 15.

James R. Strait came from Indiana in 1855, and purchased the southeast quarter of section 22.

Richard Simth came from Ohio in the fall of 1855, and brought along a small stock of goods. He stayed only a few months, then moved south.

Freeman Webster, of New York, came in the spring of 1855, and located on section 8, where he remained until 1874, then moved to Hillsborough, where he was living in 1884.

Morgan Lloyd, a native of Ireland, came in 1856, and settled on section 20, where he died in 1882.

Owen Conaway, an Irishman, settled in 1856, on section 17, where he died in 1881.

Charles Landrum, of Indiana, settled in 1855, on section 23, built a log house and remained two years, after which he sold to Clement Cherrington, and moved to Hillsborough, where he died in 1882.

Abraham Kuffman, of Pennsylvania, settled on section 15, in 1856. Robert Bailey, a native of Canada, located on section 21, in 1854.

Reuben Miller came from Indiana in 1855, and settled on section 14.

Hugh Brandon came from New England, in 1855, and settled on section 13, where he was still living in 1884.

Phineas Bundy, a native of North Carolina, came to the town in 1855, and settled on section 27, where he resided in 1884.

Malcom McMillan, of Nova Scotia, came in 1855, from Michigan, and located on section 20.

Mike Farrell, an Irishman, came in 1855 and located on section 5, where he was still living in 1884.

John Rice, also a native of Ireland, settled on section 7, in the spring of 1856.

Among the pioneers of 1856 who are entitled to sketches in this connection is Moses Jordan, who is a native of New Jersey; he was born in 1801. When four years old his parents moved to Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood. When but thirteen years of age he engaged in

a flour mill to learn the milling business. In 1832 he removed to the State of New York, where he remained until 1838, when he moved to Illinois, lived there five years and moved to Indiana, where he remained till 1853 and then came to Bad Ax county, and bought the north half of the northwest quarter of section 26, town 13, range 1 east, in what is now Greenwood town of Vernon county. In 1854 he moved to Readsburg, where he lived two years, then returned to Greenwood. In 1869 he had the misfortune to lose his eyesight, since which time he has been blind. He was married in 1822 to Mary Shaner, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1805. They have had nine children, six of whom were living in 1884—William, Susan, Elizabeth, Harriet, Mary and Louisa. Mr. Jordan has been a prominant man in town affairs, having been elected as the first justice of the peace, also first town treasurer.

Thomas Brown, who lived in the town of Viroqua, bought the southeast quarter of section 22, in 1857. His father James Brown and family lived here at the time. Mr. Brown was an educated man and followed school teaching and surveying. He died in 1870.

Joseph Hansberry came here from Indiana about the same time, or perhaps a little earlier, remained a few years and then left the county.

Elias Kegley settled in the town in 1856. He is a native of Virginia, born in Wythe county, Sept. 3, 1824. When fourteen years old his parents moved to Johnson county, where he grew to manhood. In 1856 he came to Wisconsin, spent two years in the town of Greenwood and then went to Missouri, where he remained until 1862. From there he removed to Iowa where he spent a year, then returned to this town. In 1864, he went to Pine River, Richland county, where he remained till 1867, and again returning to this town bought his farm on which he lived in 1884. He was married in 1856 to Rebecca Bundy by whom he has had five children—Albert H., Mary R., Ida J. George A. and Ellen.

FIRST EVENTS.

One of the first marriages, in the town of Greenwood, was Joseph Trean and Miss Brook. This ceremony was performed in 1855. They settled on section 22, remained a few years and moved to Indiana.

The first birth in the town was James, a son of Robert and Jane Bailey, who was born Oct. 1, 1854. In 1884 he was living in Iowa.

The first death in the town was a son of John S. and Caroline (Beck) Shreve, named Perry, who died in March, 1854.

The first town election was held in August 1856.

The first blacksmith in the town was John Staley, who opened a shop in 1855, which was located on section 15. He died while serving in the Union army, in 1863.

ORGANIC.

The town of Greenwood was organized in April, 1856, and the following officers elected: U. Gregory, chairman; Caleb Shreve and Ransom Daley, supervisors, Joseph D. Hansberry, clerk; but as he removed from the town before his term of office expired, Thornton Perry was appointed to fill the vacancy. R. G. Story was elected superintendent of schools, but on account of his removal, C. A. Fuller was appointed in his place. Moses Jordan and Mr. Knox, justices of the peace; John S. Shreve, assessor.

At the annual town meeting, in 1883, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: John Shaughnessy, chairman, John Anderson and Joseph Pliner, supervisors; William Brandon, clerk; John S. Shreve, treasurer; J. W. Shreve, assessor; Horace Rhinehart, justice of the peace; A. Hanson and Hiram Sanders, constables.

SCHOOLS.

In 1884 the town of Greenwood was divided into six school districts.

The first school house in the town was in what is now known as district No. 5, built in

1856, and stood on the southeast quarter of section 22. Grace Brooks was the first teacher. This house was used but two or three years, when it was replaced by another log house, which was still standing in 1884.

The first school in district No. 5 was taught in a log house belonging to Calsina Townsend, situated on the northwest qnarter of section 14. The first term of school in this district was taught by Jane Townsend in 1857.

A school house was built on the northwest quarter of section 14, in which Marie Smith was the first teacher. This house was in use till 1877, when a frame house was erected on the southeast quarter of section 14. Marie Smith also taught the first school in this building.

In district No. 4 the first school was taught by Margaret Fuller, in 1858, at Morgan Lloyd's house. In 1859 a school house was provided on the northwest quarter of section 20, in which Sarah Brown taught the first term of school. This house was in use for school purposes till 1868, when a new one was erected on the site of the old one. Martin Shields taught the first school in this house.

In district No. 3 the first school house was built in 1857 or 1858, and was situated on the southwest quarter of section 8. Mary Givens was one of the early teachers here. This building was afterward enlarged and served the district until 1880, when a frame building took its place. Charles Colier was the first teacher who taught in the new building.

In district No. 7 a school house was built in 1859; this was located on the southwest quarter of section 36. This was a small log house which served the purpose until 1866, when another log building was erected, which stood on the northwest quarter of section 36. Mary Rennick was the first teacher employed in this building.

District No. 8 was provided with a school house some time in 1866 or 1867, on John Anderson's land, on section 32. Susan Outkelt taught the first school in this house, which was moved in 1871 to section 31, and used till 1880, when another building took its place, on the southwest quarter of section 29. Kate Costello was the first teacher in the last named building.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

The first religious services in the town were held at the log school house on section 22, in 1857, by Rev. M. Clingman, a Methodist preacher, who organized a class of which Josephus Cherrington was leader. This class continued to hold services for about five years. Revs. Moore, Day and Holcomb preached for this society as long as it had an existence

In 1856 the United Brethren organized a class at the same school house. Rev. Adam Shambeau, from the Kickapoo, was the preacher, and Horace A. Rhinehart was class leader.

Another United Brethren class was formed in 1877 at the house of Samuel Watson, by D. K. Young. This class numbered forty members, Joseph Frank was the first leader. Meetings were held at the house of Mr. Watson till the church was built in 1878 on section 16. The following preachers have served this people: Revs. Charles Hibbard, William Smith, D. K. Young and E. Casper. Tillman Sanders was class leader in 1884, at which time services were held once in two weeks.

The Christian Church was organized in 1860, at the log school house on section 22, by Rev. Abraham Williams. James H. Shreve was the first deacon. Rev. Williams was succeeded by Isaac Lepley and he by James H. Shreve. In 1879 they completed a church, which was built of logs located on the southwest quarter of section 15. John S. Shreve was deacon of the Church in 1884.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first meetings in private houses. Rev. Preus, a missionary, was their first preacher. In 1871 they built a hewed log church on the southwest quarter of section 25.

The Seventh Day Adventists held their first meeting in this town in June, 1878, in a tent on

section 26. Elders O. A. Johnson and P. L. Horn were the preachers. They organized a society, the following winter, at a private house owned by Jonathan Hunter, on section 25. There were about thirty members. B. F. Thomas was chosen first deacon. In 1880 a church was built on the northwest quarter of section 25. Elder Johnson preached for some time and was finally succeeded by Elder C. W. Olds.

The first Catholic services in the town of Greenwood were held at Morgan Lloyd's house on section 20, in 1860. Father Peter Montague was the first priest, whose home was over in Juneau county, but he supplied this settlement of Catholics, occasionally. In 1871 a church was built, which was located on the northwest quarter of section 9. Father Bernard was the first regular priest in charge after the house of worship was erected.

HANSBERRY'S MILL.

This mill was built by Nicholas Didivt, in 1874, and is situated on the northeast quarter of section 3. The power is derived from the Baraboo river and from a fifteen horse-power engine. The river at this point gives an eight foot fall. In 1875 Didivt sold to Mathius Hansberry, who still operated it in 1884.

CEMETERIES.

The first place set apart for a burying ground was on section 23, near Debello, on the Van Alstine farm. In 1884 there was a Norwegian cemetery near their church on section 23 and one on the northwest quarter of section 22, near the Christian church; also a Catholic cemetery on section 9 by their church.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

The following sketches represent a large number of the leading citizens of Greenwood town in the order in which they made a settlement here:

Otto F. is a son of Otto Hammer, one of the pioneers of Hillsborough. He was born in New York Oct. 23,1847. He was but eight years of age when his parents came to Wisconsin and became pioneers of Bad Ax county. He received his education in the public schools of Hillsborough town. At seventeen years of age he commenced to learn the shoemaker's trade and worked at that three and one-half years. He then engaged with Carl Ludwig, and was in his employ, working in the brewery and on the farm four years. He was married Dec. 25, 1870, to Mathilda Duft. They have five children—Josephine, Emma, Mathilda, Mabel and Robert. The May previous to his marriage he had bought timber land on section 1, town of Greenwood. He has since cleared a farm, built a house and now makes this his home.

Caleb Shreve, a pioneer of Vernon county, and son of William and Eleanor (Caleb) Shreve, was born in Miami Co., Ind., May 29, 1823. When but an infant his parents removed to Perry Co, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was there married, Sept. 15, 1842, to Naomi Jennings. Mr. Shreve remained in Perry county until 1853, when he started west to seek a home. Arriving in Wisconsin, he bought the southwest quarter of section 22, town 13, range 1 east, in territory now known as Greenwood town, Vernon county. Here he was one of the first settlers, as there were less than a dozen families in the eastern part of the county at this time. In 1861 he enlisted in the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, went south and served two years. In 1863 he received an injury and was discharged on account of disability. He also lost his voice; but a few years later he fell from a barn which was the means of restoring it to him. He, however, again lost it and now converses only in a whisper. He had no school advantages and consequently is not an educated man, but is endowed with a good share of common sense. Mr. Shreve is kind.hearted and hospitable, cheerful in his disposition and enjoys the respect and confidence of all who know him. He is a good judge of a horse; also treats them for diseases. His practice in this profession is very large, extending into Sauk and Richland counties. On April 7, 1879, Mrs. Shreve died, leaving eight children—Ezra W.,

Sarah E., Smith, John J., Isaac L., Arminda, Lovica and Caleb Perry. Mr. Shreve was a member of the first board of supervisors of Greenwood town and also has been postmaster at Debello.

William Smith Shreve was but six years of age when his parents located in this town. He was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Dec. 12, 1847. His parents were Caleb and Naomi (Jennings) Shreve. They came to Vernon Co., Wis., in 1853, and were pioneers of Greenwood town. William S. grew to manhood on the homestead farm, assisting in the farm labor during the summer, and attending school in the winter season. He bought some land in Sauk county, and after his marriage traded this land for a farm on section 22 of this town, where he located, built a log cabin and resided till 1882. In the latter year he settled on his present farm, which is on the same section, and now includes the plat of the village known as Debello. Mr. Shreve was married, in 1868,to Susan Fries, and five children have been given them—Mary Amanda, Charles F., Louisa M., Susan Edith and Myrtie C. John J., another son of Caleb and Naomi (Jennings) Shreve, was born in Boone Co., Ill., Oct. 4, 1853. He went to Dakota in 1873, and took up a homestead in Turner county. Here he lived until 1881, when he returned to the town of Greenwood. He settled on his present farm in 1882. He was married, in 1876, to Ellen Rogers. They have two children—Ada J. and Edward O.

John S., son of William and Eleanor (Smith) Shreve, was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Feb. 16, 1828, and there grew to manhood. In 1850 he was united in marriage with Caroline Beck, a native of Pennsylvania. In 1853 he came to Wisconsin to seek a home, settling on section 23, of township 13, range 1 east. In 1854 he went to Sauk county and found employment clearing land, for which he was paid six shillings per day. In this way he raised money to pay for his land. In 1855 he traded his land on section 23 for 120 acres on section 15, moved there, built a good log house, and commenced clearing the land. Mr. Shreve has been very successful in his endeavours to make a home, and now owns 160 acres of land, seventy acres of which is under cultivation. Mrs. Shreve died Jan. 25, 1858, leaving nine children—Mary Ellen, Hezekiah, William A., Joseph, Napoleon, Sarah, John E., Armilda and Isaac. William A. was born March 25, 1856, and died April 23, 1880; Sarah was born Jan. 25, 1860, and died in September, 1875. In 1871 Mr. Shreve was married to Emma C., daughter of William and Yanca (Jenkins) Hines, and widow of James Bundy. They have two children—Charles and Amy. Mr. Shreve has been prominent in town affairs. He was the first assessor in Hillsborough town, and filled that office in Greenwood eleven consecutive terms. He is the present treasurer. Mrs. Shreve died June 25, 1858.

Prentiss Abbott is a son of Aaron A. and Abesta (Moulton) Abbott, was born in Tunbridge town, Windsor Co., Vt., in 1822. When four years of age, his parents moved to Boston, Mass., where his father engaged in the boot and shoe business. After remaining there one year, they moved to Canada, settling in the province of Quebec. At the end of six years they removed to Port Hope, province of Ontario. Here it was that Prentiss began his career as a hunter. Game was plenty, and he spent a greater part of his time in hunting and trapping, and made considerable money thereby. In 1838 his parents moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where they lived one year, when his father bought some timber land from the government, situated five miles from Milwaukee, and Prentiss helped him to clear it. Game being abundant, Prentiss spent much time hunting deer, bear, elk and panthers, finding a ready sale for them in Milwaukee. When he was twenty-one years of age he, in company with his brother, erected a large frame house on the farm and opened a hotel, called the Kinnekinick House. One year later he sold out and went to Waukesha county, where he purchased a farm,

erected a large house, part log and part frame, and engaged in farming and keeping hotel. Two years later he removed to Washington county, and in 1854 he again changed his residence, coming to Vernon county, and entering 640 acres of land in town 13, range 1 east, now known as Greenwood. He built a log house on the southeast quarter of section 10, and commenced clearing a farm. In 1861 he went to Hillsborough, bought town property, and opened a hotel. He remained in this business until 1875, when he again returned to Greenwood and settled on the northeast quarter of section 10, where he had previously built a frame house. He has been twice married. His first wife was Jane Fenton, by whom he had three children—Charles, Prentiss C. and Laura. He was mar- May 16, 1883, to Elizabeth Brill, a native of Wurtemburg, Germany.

John Collins is a native of Ireland, born in county Clare in 1829. When thirteen years of age he left his native land for America. He landed in New York city, from whence he went to Buffalo, where he spent two years in school, thus acquiring an education that has since been useful to him. He then came to Wisconsin, settling in Milwaukee, where he remained until 1849, at which time he went to Richland county in the employ of Ira Harelton, with whom he remained one year. He then returned to Buffalo, N. Y. After spending about a year in the east, in various places, he returned to Wisconsin, locating in Waukesha. He was there married, Jan. 2, 1852, to Mary Ann McMahon, born in county Meath, Ireland, in May, 1832. She came to America with her parents when thirteen years of age. In 1854 Mr. Collins came to Vernon county and entered land in the northeast quarter of section 21. He afterwards returned to Waukesha county, remaining there until 1856, at which time he came with his family and settled on his land in Vernon county, where he commenced to improve his farm. He now has 120 acres on section 21, and eighty acres on section 4. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have nine children. Mr. Collins has taken a prominent part in town affairs, and has held offices of trust. He is also clerk of the district, having served in that capacity for several years.

Hugh Brandon is one of the early and honored pioneers of Greenwood town, locating here in 1855, when the face of the country was a dense forest and unbroken prairie. Mr. Brandon is a native of the "Emerald Isle," and was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in 1818. He was there reared to manhood, and in 1846 determined to seek a new home in the "land of the free." He accordingly engaged passage in a sailing vessel and came to America. Mr. Brandon first located in Connecticut, where he was engaged in farming, until his removal to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, in 1855. He entered 240 acres of land on section 13, of town 13 north, of range 1 east. He built thereon a little log cabin, in which he lived and reared a family, until 1881, when he erected his present frame residence. Mr. Brandon was married, in 1854, to Mary Sullivan, and six children have been sent to bless this union—William, Mary, Annie, Eliza, Frank and Agnes. The elder of this family, William, is a native of this town, born Nov. 25, 1855. He has grown to manhood in this county, and received a good education in the district schools. He is now serving his fourth term as clerk of Greenwood town. Mr. Brandon is unmarried, and still resides with his parents.

David Mahr, one of the pioneers of Greenwood, is a native of Germany, born March 16, 1830. He received a good education in the public schools of Germany, attending them until fourteen years of age. He afterwards engaged in farming. In 1852 he left his native land and came to America. He came directly, with his family, to Wisconsin, settling in Washington county, where his father bought a farm. He remained with his father one year, then went to live with the Americans, thereby learning the English language. In 1855 Mr.

Mahr came to Vernon county and entered land on section 3, of town 13, range 1 east, now known as Greenwood. In March, 1858, he returned to Washington county, where he was married to Friederike Grouhe, and the next month they started for their new home. He built a log house on his land, on section 3, and commenced to clear the heavy timber from the place. Mr. Mahr has been a successful farmer, and now owns 165 acres of land, seventy-seven of which is in a good state of cultivation. In 1882 he built the large frame house in which he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Mahr are the parents of eight children—John, Henriette, Frank, Peter, Sophie, Annie, and Oscar N. and Charles N., twins.

William Shreve, one of the pioneers of Greenwood town, was born in Bedford Co., Penn., Sept. 26, 1802. When he was four years of age his parents moved to Ohio and were among the first settlers in Miami county. Here William grew to manhood. He was married June 15, 1820, to Eleanor Smith, born Sept. 15, 1800. They moved to Indiana, settling in Miami county After remaining here a few years they returned to Ohio, and settling in Perry county, bought timber land and improved a farm. Mr. Shreve remained there until 1855, when he started with a team for Wisconsin. After traveling about three weeks he arrived in Vernon county and entered land on section 22, making this his home till the time of his death, which occurred Jan. 9, 1880. Mrs. Shreve died May 7, 1865.

Hezekiah Shreve, son of William and Eleanor (Smith) Shreve, was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Jan. 15, 1840. When fifteen years of age his parents came to Wisconsin, and he assisted his father in clearing a farm. He was married Jan. 28, 1864, to Rachel Daniels, born in Allen Co., Ohio. In September, 1864, he enlisted in company A, 25th Wisconsin Volunteers; went south; joined Gen. Sherman at Atlanta; was with him in his march to the sea and through the Carolinas. He was discharged with the regiment June 9, 1865, and returning to Greenwood, renewed farming. In 1870 he built a two story hewed log house on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 22. He still makes this his home. He has planted an orchard on his place and cultivates hops and sorghum. He is also engaged in grain and stock raising. He has a mill and makes his own syrup. He has seven children living—Walter H., Ulysses S., Harriet E., Langley, Otto, Carrie B. and William H. A daughter, Minnie F., died when four years of age.

James H., son of William and Eleanor (Smith) Shreve, was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Dec. 14, 1832. He lived with his parents until fourteeen years of age then started in life for himself. Leaving home he went to Franklin Co., Ohio, and for three years was there engaged in farming, going from thence to Hocking county, where he lived two years, farming in the summer and mining coal in the winter. In 1852 he returned to Perry county, remaining one year. In 1853 he went to Lancaster, Ohio, going from there to Philadelphia with a drove of cattle, starting March 31 and arriving in Philadelphia on the 18th of May, having traveled the entire distance on foot. He stopped in Philadelphia but two days, returning home by way of New York city, Buffalo and Niagara Falls. He then engaged as superintendent of construction on the Wilmington & Cincinnati Railroad for one year. He then took a contract to construct a piece of road. Mr. Shreve was married May 4, 1854, to Mary E. Chenoweth, born in Perry county. They went to Franklin Co., Ohio, and remained there until 1855, then, in company with his father and two brothers, started for Wisconsin, settling in town 13, range 1 east. He bought land on section 15 and immediately commenced to improve it. He has since made this his home. Mr. and Mrs. Shreve have had ten children, seven of whom are living—John W., James T., Hezekiah A., Samuel S., Emma, Mary A. and Nora. The second child died in infancy;

Floretta J., born Aug. 26, 1866, also died in infancy; Harvey, born June 4, 1875, died Jan. 16, 1880. Mr. Shreve has been prominent in town affairs, having held the offices of town clerk, constable and treasurer. He was also one of the commissioners to lay out the State road from Woodstock to Wonowac. Mr. Shreve was for some years a preacher in the Christian Church.

John Staley, a pioneer of Greenwood town, was born in Lafayette Co., Ind., Dec. 25, 1830. When he was quite young his parents moved to Howard county, where he grew to manhood. When a boy he learned the trade of a blacksmith, and worked at that in Howard county until 1852, when he went to Cass Co., Ind., where he was married March 21, 1854, to Rachel, daughter of Charles and Calsina (Ingerson) Townsend, a native of St. Lawrence Co. N. Y. In 1855 they started west to seek a home, and came to Bad Ax, (now Vernon) county, and bought land on section 15, of town 13 north, range 1 east, now known as Greenwood. He here erected a blacksmith shop and worked at his trade in connection with farming. In 1864 he joined the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, company F, and went south; was with Sherman in Georgia, and participated in his march to the sea. He died while in the service at Savannah, Ga., Feb. 9, 1865. He left three children—Ellen, Charles and Martin. The two eldest children are married. The younger son, Martin, is at home with his mother, and carries on the farm.

Samuel Watson was born in Darke Co., Ohio, Jan. 16, 1825. When fourteen years of age his parents moved to Indiana, settling in Wayne county. He was married in 1845 to Rhoda Taylor, a native of Wayne county. For two years he rented land in that county, moving in 1847 to Grant county, same State, where he purchased land. He improved this place and lived here until 1855, when he started west to seek a home. He came to Vernon Co., Wis., and entered land on section 9, town 13, range 1 east, and immediately began to improve it. He has since made this his home. Soon after arriving here he took steps to secure a school for his children, and, in 1858, at a meeting held at his house, a school district was organized. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have eight children living—George, born May 22, 1849; Elihu, born Nov. 14, 1857; Sarah A., born May 14, 1853; Daniel, born Nov. 18, 1856; John, born Aug. 20, 1858; Ellen, born March 17, 1860; Lucinda, born Nov. 10, 1873, and Mary Etta, born March 14, 1875. Their first son, Joseph, was born in Grant Co., Ind., May 7, 1846. He came to Wisconsin with his parents and made his home with them until 1864, when he enlisted in company I, 8th Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south. He died in Memphis, Tenn., in the spring of 1865, while still in the service. Mr. and Mrs. Watson are both members of the United Brethren Church.

Robert Bailey, one of the pioneers of Greenwood, was born in Ireland in 1822, and when quite young his parents removed to Canada, where he was raised on a farm, and was part of the time employed on public works. He was married in 1844 to Jane Scott, who was born in Ireland in 1822, but of Scotch descent. They remained in Canada until 1849, when they came to the States, locating in Boone Co., Ill., where they lived until 1856, then came to Wisconsin to seek a home. Coming directly to Vernon county, he entered land on section 26, town 13, range 1 east, built a log house and commenced clearing a farm. In 1861 he enlisted in company H, 10th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and immediately went to the front. He was killed at the battle of Chattanooga, in 1863, while gallantly fighting for his adopted country. He left a widow and seven children to mourn his death. Six of these children are now living—Agnes, Samuel, William, James, Isabelle and Jennie. Mrs. Bailey struggled with a brave heart and raised her family. She now occupies the homestead.

Abraham Kauffman was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., Jan. 9, 1809, of poor, but honest parents. He received his education in the common schools, and was raised to agricultural pursuits. He was married, Nov. 25, 1828, to Eliza Martin. They remained in Lancaster county seven years, then started west to seek a home. They located in Posey county, where Mr. Kauffman learned the shoemakers trade. He remained there until 1844, then came to Wisconsin, settling in Washington county. He purchased government land, improved forty acres, and built a log cabin. In 1856 he sold out, and, again pushing to the frontier, came to Vernon Co., Wis., and purchased land on sections 10, 11 and 15, built a log house and immediately commenced to make improvements. He occupied this house until 1879, then erected the frame house in which he now lives. Mrs. Kauffman was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., Sept. 10, 1810. She died in Greenwood, in 1857, leaving four children—Starrett, Benjamin, Betsey and Annie. Mr. Kauffman was married April 13, 1859, to Colsina Ingerson, born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Dec. 3, 1807. Her first husband was Charles Townsend, of New York State, where Mrs. Townsend lived with her husband a few years, when they moved to Ohio, and from thence to Indiana. Mr. Townsend died in 1856, just as he was ready to move from Indiana to Wisconsin. He left three children—Emma A., Rachel and May. Mr. Kauffman's son, Benjamin T., was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., Dec. 30, 1835. He came to Wisconsin with his parents, and was married in 1858 to Jane Townsend. He now occupies a portion of the old homestead, and is engaged in farming.

Reuben Miller was born in Ohio, May 6, 1829. When quite young his parents moved to Missouri. After living there a short time, they moved to Indiana, settling in Howard county, where Reuben grew to manhood. He was married in Cass county, in 1854, to Catharine Bickill, born in Licking Co., Ohio. After remaining in Cass county two years, he came to Vernon Co., Wis., and bought land on section 14, town 13, range 1 east, now known as Greenwood. He built a good log house on his place, set out an orchard and commenced to improve his farm. He made this his home until his death, which occurred Nov. 5, 1873. He left seven children—Benjamin F., Sarah, Ida, John, Edson, Melissa and James. The family now occupy the homestead.

Horace A. Rhinehart was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Feb. 14, 1827. When six years of age his parents moved to the western part of New York State, settling in Chautauqua county. Here his father bought timber land and improved a farm. Horace A. here grew to manhood, his younger days being spent in school and on the farm. He was married in Chautauqua county, in 1853, to Sarah, daughter of William and Tommy (Jenkins) Hyne. She lived but two months and twelve days. He then came to Wisconsin, and after spending a year in Rock and Greene counties, returned to New York. While there he married Mary J., a sister of his first wife. Coming with his wife to Wisconsin, he stopped for a time in Greene county. In the fall of 1856 he moved to Vernon Co., Wis., purchasing land on section 34, town 13, range 1 east, now known as Greenwood. He spent the winter on his farm in Greene county, returning to his land in Vernon county the following spring. In February, 1857, he met with an accident, by which his left leg was broken, and he was laid up all summer, thereby losing much valuable time. After recovering, he resumed work, and began the cultivation of his farm. In 1865 he sold out and purchased land on section 27, which he has since made his home. In 1883, he erected the large frame house in which he now lives. His second wife died in 1862, leaving him two children—Sarah M. and Lucinda S. In 1863 he married Sarah Kegley. Seven children blessed this union—Estella, Edwin, Franklin, Rollin, Effie, William and Alvin.

Henry, son of Jacob and Augusta Lind, honored pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Germany, in 1834. He attended school there until fourteen years of age, and then engaged in teaming in the city of West Baden. When he was seventeen years old, in company with his parents, he left his native land, and came to America. They landed at New York, and came directly to Wisconsin, and settled in Washington county. Henry was there married in February, 1857, to Mary Coe, born in Steuben Co., N. Y. The June following, they came to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, and purchased timber land on section 12, of town 13 north, of range 1 east, and commenced to clear a farm He has built a good log house, to which he has made a frame addition. In 1882 he built a frame barn, 30x40 feet in size, with a stone basement. They have five children—Larinda, Matilda, Charlie, Ida and Arthur.

Thomas J., son of Jacob and Mary (Shear) Hickok, was born in Erie Co., N. Y., Dec. 10, 1851. He came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1862, and settled in Hillsborough town. He was educated in the district schools of Erie county and Hillsborough town, with the exception of one term at Hill's Prairie. In 1874 he bought land in the town of Greenwood, and here commenced farming. He was married, in December, 1875, to Mrs. Cornelia (Backus) Hickok, widow of his brother, Jacob M. Hickok. One child has blessed this union—Claude Irwin. Jacob Manly Hickok was born in Erie Co., N. Y., July 20, 1849. He came to Hillsborough town with his parents, and remained with them until his marriage, Sept. 19, 1868, to Cornelia Backus. One year later he removed to Glendale, where he lived until the date of his death, April 19, 1875, leaving a wife and two children—James Almond and Thomas Earl.

Lars Hanson Lee, one of the early Norwegian settlers of Greenwood town, was born in 1805. He married Martha Jenson. In 1851 they came to America, landing at New York city, and going from there to Madison, Wis., where they remained until 1853. Mr. Lee went from there to Perry town, Dane county, and purchased some school land. He cleared a farm, built a log house and remained there until 1863, when he sold out and came to Vernon county. Here he purchased land on section 25, Greenwood town, since which time he has cleared a farm and built a good house. In 1867 he sold this farm to his son, but has always made his home here, and is still engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Lee both enjoy good health. They are the parents of four children—Annie, Lena, (deceased) James L. and Henry L. The oldest daughter is in Norway. James L. resides in Decorah, Iowa, where he is agent for the Lutheran publishing house, and has charge of the Decorah scale works.

Henry L., youngest son of Lars Hanson and Martha (Jenson) Lee, was born in Norway, Nov. 29, 1838. He was but twelve years of age when his parents emigrated to America. At thirteen years of age he started out to make his own living in Madison, first engaging with a groceryman, where he made himself useful in the store. He remained with him for a year and a half and then engaged as clerk in a grocery house one year, also driving the delivery wagon, and then went to work in a meat market. In the fall of 1858 he went to work on a farm, continuing in that occupation until the spring of 1860, when he went to St. Louis, and remained through the summer. He next went to Macon Co., Mo., and engaged in training fast horses, fitting them for the race track and taking them to the different county fairs. In the fall Mr. Lee went to New Orleans, where he remained until the spring of 1861, then returned to Macon Co., Mo., and stayed there until the fall of 1861, when he returned to Madison, and remained until he enlisted Aug. 13, 1862, in company D, 23d Wisconsin Volunteers. He served as orderly

John M. McLees.

for the commanding officer in the following important battles: Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, siege of Vicksburg, Carrion Crow Bayou, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Cane River, Jackson, La., Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. He was honorably discharged at Mobile, Ala., July 4, 1865, and was mustered out of service at Madison, Aug. 18, 1865. November 2, the same year, he came to Vernon county and worked for his father one year, then bought the farm of him, and has since made this his home. He was married April 19, 1868, to Mary Johnson. They have seven children—Martha Johanna, Martin Lewis, James T., Bertha Lena, Henriette C., John E. and Anna Maria.

Einer Nelson, one of the early Norwegian settlers, was born in 1810. His wife's name was Gure Paulson. In 1855 they emigrated to America, landing at Quebec. From there they went to Dane Co., Wis., living near Stoughton one year, going from thence to Perry town, where Mr. Nelson entered forty acres of land, cleared a farm and remained until 1864. He then sold out and came to Vernon county, buying land on section 26, and making his home here until 1866, when he sold to his son and bought land on section 34, which he has since made his home. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had seven children—Nels E., Paul, Rachel, Carrie, Mary, Christiana and Johanna. Nels E., the oldest son of Einer and Gure (Paulson) Nelson, was born in Norway, Jan. 18, 1842. When thirteen years of age he accompanied his parents to America and soon after commenced life's battle for himself. He readily found employment as a farm laborer, and on Nov. 18, 1861, enlisted in company H, 15th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and participated in all the skirmishes and battles of that regiment. He was severely wounded on the third day of the battle at Stone River and lay in the hospital at Nashville, Tenn, for six months. He rejoined the regiment at Murfreesboro and at the battle of Chickamauga was taken prisoner. He was confined in the enemy's prisons at Richmond and Danville, Va., for seventeen months, and while at the latter place succeeded, with a few companions, in digging with wooden shovels a hole under the prison wall and escaping, but was soon recaptured. From Danville he was taken to the renowned Andersonville pen, where he spent six months, and was subsequently taken to Charleston and Florence, South Carolina, and then to Richmond again, from which latter place he was paroled. He was afterward taken sick with typhoid fever and sent to the hospital at Annapolis, Md., going home from thence on a furlough, and finally mustered out at Madison, Wis., July 6, 1865. When he entered the army he weighed about 185 pounds, and when honorably discharged at Madison four years later he tipped the beam at ninety-five pounds—the result of sickness, exposure and prison life. As soon as he had recovered a portion of his lost strength he engaged in farming and in 1866 purchased his father's farm on section 26, of this town, where he has since resided In 1869 he was married to Betsey Johnson, and nine children have been given to them, six now living—James A., Edward N., Clara P., Ojerte R., Robert and George M.

John Anderson, one of the early Norwegian settlers of Greenwood town, was born in 1829. His youth and early manhood were spent in school and on a farm in his native land. In 1857 he left home and came to America Going directly to Wisconsin, he settled in Dane county, where he was employed in farming. He remained there until 1865, when he came to Greenwood and purchased land on section 32. He immediately began improving his land and now has a farm in a good state of cultivation. In 1855 he was married to Julia Christopherson. Fifteen children blessed this union, twelve of whom are now living. Mr. Anderson is as well educated in English as in Norwegian. He is a leading member of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Church. Mr. Anderson is promi-

nent in town affairs and is a member of the town board, now serving his second term.

Adolphus P. Mallow was born in Ross Co., Ohio, Sept. 29, 1837. His parents were early settlers in Sauk Co., Wis. In the fall of 1861, he enlisted for one year in the 60th Ohio Volunteers, company C, and while in that regiment, was at New Creek Station, Winchester, McDowells and Harpers Ferry, where he was taken prisoner and paroled with the rest of the Union soldiers. His time being nearly out, he was sent to Camp Douglas, at Chicago, till he was mustered out, when he returned to his Wisconsin home, where he remained one year, forming the acquaintance and marrying the only daughter of Dr. Aaron Winslow, one of Vernon county's oldest and most respected citizens. They were married the 3d of January, 1864, and the 4th he left home to enlist in the 19th Wisconsin, and was in battles of Fort Darling, Fair Oaks and other engagements of that summer of 1864, when the Army of Potomac lay in the rifle pits in front of Petersburg. On that memorable day in April, 1865, when the Union soldiers went into Richmond, he entered with his regiment and remained on duty at the Custom House until August 9, when his regiment was ordered to Wisconsin to be mustered out. He returned to Woodland, engaged in farming, and in 1872 purchased E. M. Winslow's place and an interest in the Dr. Winslow farm in Greenwood, on section 11, where he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Mallow have four children living—Ralph W., Hattie Maud, Charlie E. and Edith Lillian, and one, Freddie, deceased.

David G. Mullin settled on his farm in Greenwood town, in 1875. At that time it was heavily timbered, but he has cleared fifty acres, built a good frame house and granary, and is now engaged in grain and stock raising. He was born in Albany, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1838. When but three years of age, his parents moved to Lewis county, where his father bought 200 acres of timbered land in West Turin, and cleared it. David here grew to manhood, making his home with his parents until eighteen years of age, at which time he went to Illinois, and from there to Salem, Neb., where he remained about eighteen months. He then returned to New York remaining there until 1865, when he went to West Blue Mound and purchased a farm. Two years later he sold this place and went to Dunn county, engaged in lumbering one season, going from thence to Minnesota, where he purchased 280 acres of government land in Brown county. He improved 240 acres of this land and remained there until 1875, when, as before stated, he came to Greenwood. He was married, in 1865, to Mary Bohn. They have been blessed with six children—Hattie, Florence, Charles, Clara, Eda and Susie.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

THE TOWN OF HAMBURG.

This town, like that of Webster, is six miles square, comprising township 14, range 6 west. It is bounded on the north by the county of La-Crosse; on the east by the town of Coon; on the south by the town of Harmony; and on the west by the town of Bergen.

The town is watered by one river, which is fed by a large number of small tributaries. The Coon river is formed by three or four small streams in the northeast part of the town, and takes its course through sections 12, 13, 24, 23 and 27, and on the southeast quarter of section 28 flows into quite a large basin. From this it continues its course northerly, then westerly through sections 28, 20 and 29, and leaves the town on the northwest quarter of section 30.

The surface of the country is very rolling and hilly, but in the valleys and on the bluffs is found soil that when fully cultivated will produce bountiful crops.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settler in the town was Ole Peterson Gullord, a native of Norway, who came to this country in 1848, and to this town two years later (1850). He entered eighty acres of land on section 13, which he has since increased to 200 acres. In 1854 he married Caroline Evenson, and four children have been born to them—Peter, Amiel, Charles and Joel.

Mr. Gullord was followed in the same year by Mathias Larson, who located where he still resides.

In 1851 Nels Erickson became a member of the pioneer band, and took up a homestead of eighty acres. Close after Mr. Erickson came the present county treasurer, Ole Johnson, who traveled nearly 6,000 miles to find a home in the town of Hamburg.

Andrew Evenson arrived early in 1852. He is now deceased.

Peter Oleson Brye made his home here for a short time, but was induced by the settlers of the town of Coon to pitch his camp in their midst, that they might have the benefit of his educational facilities.

Even Egleston came into the town in 1853, and was the first to erect a house in the vicinity of Chaseburg. He was born in Norway, in 1825, and was here married, the same year he settled, to Gena Olson. They have eight children—Belle, Thomas, Eiel, Anna, Ole, Hannah, Eleas and Halvor. Mr. Egleston entered 100 acres of land on section 33, where he still resides.

Knudt Olson joined his brother and fellow-countrymen here in 1855. He entered 100 acres of land on section 12, and has since increased his land to 260 acres. He was born in Norway, in 1827, and came to America in 1849. At the age of thirty he married Rachel Sarson, who has borne him six children. Three are living—Lewis O., Elizabeth S. and Olus M. The deceased are Albert A., Lewis O. and Anna. Mr. Olson has been a member of the town board of supervisors for the past eight years.

ORGANIC.

This town was set apart early in 1858, and the first town meeting held at a school house near where Chaseburg now stands, April 6, 1858, when the following officers were elected: J.

W. Chaney, chairman, A. F. Ellertson and George Gemanhardt, side board; A. Lamprecht, clerk; Ole Johnson, treasurer; Ole Johnson, assesssor; J. W. Chaney superintendent of schools. The present officers of the town are as follows: J. W. Hoyt, chairman of the board, Ole Nelson and George Stroel, assistants, S. C. Steinburg, clerk; G. M. Vincent treasurer.

RELIGIOUS.

The larger part of the settlers of this region are Norwegians, and those that reside in the Coon valley, and along the Coon river, and its ridges on either side, through the towns of Bergen, Hamburg and Coon, and from the town of Coon and northeast into La Crosse county, (a population of about 1,400 souls) are members of the Coon Valley Norwegian Lutheran congregations. These people worship at three different churches, known as the Upper Coon Valley, Middle Coon Valley and Lower Coon Valley. These three congregations, previous to 1874, together with that at Fish Creek, in the town of Monroe, La Crosse county, were connected with the Coon Prairie parish. Their ministers were: Rev. H. A. Stub, who officiated about six years; Rev. A. C. Preus, about nine years, and subsequently the Rev. H. Halvarson who still preaches at Coon Prairie, Viroqua, and other points. In 1874 the four congregations previously mentioned, were formed into a separate parish, and their first minister was Rev. A. S. Meling. Since July, 1882, Rev. E. Jensen, formerly of Jefferson Prairie, Wis., has been in charge of the parish.

The Middle Coon Valley congregation is the only one of the three located in the town of Hamburg. It was organized in 1854, by the Rev. H. A. Stub, with the following named members: Ole Johnson, Anders Olson Thalong, Even Eielsen, Hans Kongelstad, Erik Marstuen, Anders Nilsen Klomsten, Nils Eriksen Marking, and others. The first services were held at the residence of Ole Johnson. The church is of logs, 30x24 feet in size, and was erected in 1859, at a cost of $500. The present membership is about 250, and the Church is in a good financial condition. The present trustees are: Christian Nilson, Stephen Nilson and John Hagen. A parochial, or weekly religious school is under the auspices of the Church, and held for about sixty days each year, under Harold Hoff, the teacher.

SCHOOLS.

Hamburg has always had a good class of public schools. In 1884 the town was divided into seven districts, each being provided with a fair building. The school population was at this date one half Norwegian and the other half made up about equally of German and American children.

CEMETERIES.

There are three organized cemeteries within the town. One located in the village of Chaseburg, and the other two on sections 3 and 19.

THE VILLAGE OF CHASEBURG.

This village is located on section 28, on the east side of Coon river. It was laid out and platted by George Swain and George Little, on June 4, 1866, and was named in honor of Henry Chase, who had been instrumental in founding the village. The original plat comprised twelve blocks or squares, and the first dwelling house was erected by George Swain.

The first saw mill was built and put in running order by Henry Chase, in 1862.

Mr. Chase and George Little erected the first flouring mill, in 1863.

The first store was opened, in 1863, by Hon. J. W. Hoyt, and he now enjoys the largest trade in the village.

Joseph W. Hoyt is also postmaster of Chaseburg, and owns 190 acres of land in this town. In 1861 he enlisted in the 1st regiment, Vermont Cavalry, but was discharged a little later, on account of sickness. He was chairman of the board of Hamburg town for five years, also chairman of the county board for two years. In 1870–71, he represented the county of Vernon in the State Legislature. He was married, in 1863, to Elizabeth Isham, and three children

have been born to them—Russell, Nina and Harry.

The first sermon in the village of Chaseburg, was preached in 1863, by Rev. H. A. Stub, in the house of Henry Chase.

The first blacksmith shop was erected by a Mr. Cogswell, in 1864.

The first school was taught in the village school house by Miss Spence, in 1865.

The first birth was Nellie, daughter of George Swain and wife.

The first hotel was erected by George W. Swain, who has since conducted it in a manner highly satisfactory to the traveling public.

The first shoemaker in the village was Mathias Peterson.

The first physician was Dr. Rusk.

It is not known who was the first person deceased, or the first couple married.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes—J. W. Hoyt, L. C. Steinburg; hardware—J. W. Hoyt and Thomas Parkin; saw mill—George Swain; grist mill—Granville Akin; harness—August Getting; blacksmiths—J. C. Markle and Thomas Lattimer; hardwood lumber—George Swain; veterinary surgeon—Monroe Vincent; manufacturer of shoes—Andrew Peterson.

The census of 1880, gives the population of Chaseburg as 125.

A prominent man of this village was Henry Chase, who came from Vermont in 1862, and after a short stay in Dane county, came to this place, and was instrumental in building up the village which bears his name. He was elected a member of the State Assembly in 1868. He, in company with George A. Lyttle, owned the Coon River Mills at this point. Mr. Chase died in March 1872, leaving a wife and three children. After his death, Mr. Lyttle took Mr. Chase's interest in the mill.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Peter O. Brye, is a native of Norway, and came to Racine Co., Wis., in August, 1849. He remained there one year, and then moved westward to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, in the fall of 1850. He passed over the present site of Viroqua on the 31st of October, and from there went straight to the Kickapoo timber. He worked there the following winter, and in the spring rafted the logs down the Kickapoo and Mississippi rivers as far south as Quincy, Ill. He made his home in the town of Viroqua until June 27, 1857, when he joined his brother in Hamburg town. He lived there until the spring of 1859, when he was persuaded to move over the line into what is now the town of Coon, for the purpose of assisting in the organization of the new town. The inhabitants were mostly Norwegians, and did not understand English, and Mr. Brye enjoying the knowledge of that tongue, was elected to the most important town offices, in April, 1859. He was re-elected to the same offices each succeeding year until 1867. In the fall of 1866, he resigned his offices, and rejoined his brother Knudt Olson, in Hamburg town, with whom he has since made his home. Mr. Brye devotes his attention and money to the selling of lands.

Lars Finstad was born in Norway in 1823, and emigrated to the United States in the year 1853, and settled in Hamburg on section 28. That same year he entered eighty acres, which he has since increased to 150 acres.

Mr. Finstad was married in 1845, to Hellena Scholl, by whom he has had eleven children, five of whom are now living—Hans, Christian, Edward, Mebin B. and Jane. Christian is now married to Ella Johnson, and three children have been given to them.

Hon. George W. Swain, who located in the town of Hamburg in 1863, was born in the Granite State, in 1824. He there received a good common school education, and in 1845, removed to the adjoining State of Vermont, where he resided for eight years. In 1853, he came west to Dane Co., Wis., and ten years later settled in this town. He purchased a saw-mill and 240 acres of land, lying on sections 28, 14 and 6, from Messrs. Chase and Lyttle,

and in 1866, surveyed and platted the village of Chaseburg. Mr. Swain was in 1870 a county supervisor. He is a strong republican in politics, and in 1878 was the nominee of his party for State senator, against A. D. Chase, the candidate of both the democratic and greenback parties. Mr. Swain was elected by a handsome majority. He still owns the saw-mill and carries on a large business in getting out wagon and plow stuff and hard-wood lumber. He also owns the only hotel in the village. Mr. Swain was united in marriage, in 1849, to Hannah Chase. They have reared four children—Josiah B., who married Mary Lattimer, Cora E., wife of Frank E. Aiken, Allie L. and Nellie J. Mrs Swain was born in New Hampshire, in 1825, and when five years of age accompanied her parents to Vermont. She was there married to our subject, and in 1863, came to the town of Hamburg with the honor of being the first American woman in the town. Her daughter Nellie was the first American child born in the town.

J. C. Markle was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1839, and when he was two years old his parents removed to Putnam Co., Ind., where they remained till 1851, when they moved to LaCrosse Co., Wis., and se'tled in what is called the "Ramsey Cooley," where Mr. Markle remained until he was called to defend his country in 1861. He then enlisted in the 2d regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, company B, and was discharged in 1864. Mr. Markle was wounded at the battle of South Mountain in the left arm and at the battle of the wilderness was wounded in the right arm. In 1867, Mr. Markle came to the village of Chaseburg, where he has carried on the business of blacksmithing and manufacturing wagons, and now owns sixty-two acres of land on section 28, also a house and three lots and a smith wagon and paint shop in the village of Chaseburg Mr. Markle was married in 1869, to Neoma J. Maxwell, of Vernon county, who has borne him four children—Berthier E., Claud O. and Cora B. Charles died in 1883. Mr. Markle's father, George Markle, was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, and now resides in LaCrosse Co., Wis. His mother, Elizabeth Markle, is also a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1818, and is now living in LaCrosse Co., Wis.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

TOWN OF HARMONY.

This township, known as town 13 north, range 6 west, was the sixth one organized in Vernon county. It comprises forty full sections and four half sections, of land containing in all 26,880 acres, or 3,840 more than a full congressional town. The land is mostly owned by residents, who have strenuously endeavored to cultivate and improve it and in comparison with other town in the county, will prove that their efforts have not been in vain. The United States government still owns and controls about 806 acres of land in the town. Only one stream of any note flows through the town, lending fresh life and strength to the already fertile soil. This is the North Bad Ax river, which enters the town in the eastern part on section 24 and takes a westerly course through sections 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19, making a sudden turn in the latter, and flowing southerly through sections 30 and 31. It leaves the town on the southwest quarter of the latter section. This stream is well fed by numerous tributaries, flowing from all parts of the town. Good springs are also plentiful and supply pure, fresh water for drinking and cooking purposes.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white settler in Harmony town, and a resident here at the present time, was William Struthers, who came in 1848, and in 1850 made the first entry of land, of 160 acres, "comprising the east half of the northwest quarter and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 24, town 13 north, range 6 west." Mr. Struthers is a native of Rockbridge Co., Va., and served with distinction in both the Mexican and civil wars. At the close of the former he located in this town. Mr. Struthers and David Calkins are the only ones of the early settlers now living in the town.

The Granite State furnished another pioneer in 1850 in the person of David Calkins. He was born in the rock-ribbed State of New Hampshire in 1821, and in 1844 removed to Lowell, Mass. In 1847 he was seized with that irresistable (but not fatal) malady, the western fever, and removed to Chicago, Ill., where he manufactured wagons. In 1849 he married Mary Craft and in 1850 removed his family to this town, locating on section 23, where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Calkins have eight children.

Between the years 1848 and 1852 there were several persons located in the new town, among whom may be mentioned the following: James Harkness, Orrin Calkins, Elias Rogers, Edmond Rogers, Edward Rogers, John Raywalt and Samuel Kelsie. Mr. Kelsie was, perhaps, the second settler in the town and David Calkins the fourth.

The county having been opened up for settlement, new settlers were constantly arriving, and in 1852 the town of Harmony welcomed several of them. Robert Patterson and his family came in and located land on section 21. Mr. Patterson was born in 1802 and died in 1875. His wife still survives him. Their son, E. O. Patterson, was born in 1826 and now resides on section 15.

John C. Hagerman came from Galena, Ill., in 1852 and was a resident of the town until 1875, when he removed to Iowa.

In 1854 Vermont contributed a settler, Horace Keyes, who was born in 1800, and now owns land on sections 20 and 21 of this town, where he has resided for twenty-nine years.

Two years later Alvin Baker and wife, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania, came into the town and settled with their family on section 21, where the family still reside. Mr. Baker is now deceased. Their children, men and women grown are John, Joseph, Marion, Hester and Lydia.

Another old settler of Harmony town is S. W. Moore, who has been a resident here since 1858. He is a native of Washington Co., Penn.; married Nancy McClurg; was in the Union army from 1863 till 1865, and now owns 360 acres of land.

Among other settlers who came in prior to 1860 were: Philando Bartlet, Chester Morley, Harvey Sheffield, J. L. Smith, Murray Chase, James Scott, Andrew Ellis, Daniel Aiken, Powell Brothers, Richard Sylvemut, Jesse Esler, Henry Esler and George Esler; also, James Chauncy, Levi Nobles, Calvin Allen, H. P. Buswell, E. Crandall, John McLees and F. M. Moore.

FIRST THINGS.

The first religious services held in the township were conducted in a dwelling house, in 1856, by the Rev. Mr. Munion.

The first school was taught by Mary Spencer, in 1853, in an old board shanty, erected some years previous by David Calkins.

The first couple married in the town was Hiram Patterson to Abbie Harkness, in 1855.

The first election was held in the Baker school house, in 1856.

The first election for town officers was held in the village of Newton in 1856.

The first school house was erected in 1856 on section 23, and Miss S. L. Allen, sister of Hartwell Allen taught the first school.

The first white child born in the town was Frank, son of David and Mary Calkins, October, 1851.

The first white person who died in the town was Henry, son of Elias Rogers, in 1853.

The first 4th of July celebration in the town was held in 1862, at Newton, in a beautiful maple grove. The orator was Hartwell Allen.

ORGANIC.

Harmony township was organized in 1855. At that period there were but five townships in the county, represented on the board of county commissioners as follows: Bergen, John M. McLees; Jefferson, Isaac Spencer; Viroqua, William H. Good; Bad Ax, Andrew Briggs; Kickapoo, William H. Austin. A petition for a new town was offered to the board by John M. McLees, and after due consideration it was granted, and also an order for an election of town officers. At this election the following named persons were selected to act in their different official capacities: Chairman, R. S. McMichael; clerk, Harrison Keyes; treasurer, Horace Keyes; side board, I. L Smith and Daniel Kelsie; superintendent of schools, Orin Calkins, succeeded in 1858 by Hartwell Allen.

RELIGIOUS.

As previously stated, the first religious services in Harmony town were conducted by Rev. Munion, at a private residence, in 1852. After this initial sermon preaching was had in the different dwellings throughout the town as occasion would permit, and a Sabbath school was permanently organized in 1863, under the auspices of the Baptist Church, with D. W. Horton as superintendent, assisted by his wife. Since that period it has been conducted by D. W. Horton and Jesse Cowen, and this present year has an average attendance of thirty-five scholars, with A. Nobles as superintendent.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

In 1869 Rev. S. E. Sweet, of De Soto, came into the township and preached the first Baptist sermon. On December 4, of the same year,

a few persons met to consider the propriety of organizing a Baptist Church. Delegates from the congregations at De Soto, La Crosse and Sparta were cordially invited to attend the meeting, which was held at the Hockley school house Jan. 29, 1870. Rev. Thomas Slade, of La Crosse, was chosen moderator, and D. C. Jackson, of Sparta, as clerk. The Church was duly organized, and Elder S. E. Sweet was their first pastor. He remained with the congregation until Dec. 3, 1870, when he resigned, and on Christmas day following Elder Green, a returned missionary, delivered a fine sermon, and remained about six weeks. During this time many were added to the Church. On April 21, 1872, Rev. Houghton received a call to the pastorate and remained two years. He then went to Viroqua, where he still resides, but occasionally preaches for his old charge. The congregation is quite small at present, many members having removed to other localities.

There is only one church building in the town at the present time. That is yet uncompleted, but is owned jointly by the Methodist and United Brethren congregations, both having discontinued their organizations some time since for want of means to bear expenses.

EDUCATIONAL.

There are at present in Harmony town five school buildings, aggregating in value the sum of $6,000, with an average enrollment of 431 scholars.

POSTOFFICES.

The postoffice called Enterprise was located on section 11, in 1866, and H. M. N. Rayner was appointed postmaster. He filled this position until 1882, when the office was discontinued for reasons unknown.

The postoffice at Newton was located there in 1853, with Orin Calkins as postmaster. Levi Noble is the present incumbent.

CEMETERIES.

There are two cemeteries in the town—one in the village of Newton, and the other located on section 22.

MILLS.

The town is supplied with a saw-mill on section 22, and a grist and saw-mill combined, in the village of Newton.

VILLAGE OF NEWTON.

In 1851 Edmond Rogers built a saw-mill on the present site of the village, and in 1856, Orin Calkins erected the first residence. During this same year (1856), Mr. Calkins laid out and platted a village to be known by the name of Newton. It is located on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 23, being about twelve miles distant from Viroqua

The first school house in the village was built by Murray Chase, and Hartwell Allen's sister taught the first term of school.

The first physician in the village was Dr. Marshall, who located therein in 1872. The present physicians are: Dr. C. R. Muzzy, who came to Newton in 1882, and Dr. John Dewitt.

The grist mill was erected by Martin Allen, in 1866, and is still standing. It is now operated by L. A. Aiken.

The blacksmith shop is owned by Andrew Newton.

Simon Clauson, a native of Rock Co., Wis., located here in 1869.

PERSONAL.

Under this head will be found pioneer settlers and well-known citizens in all the different avocations of life.

John Guist was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1838, and moved with his parents, in 1849, to Vernon Co., Wis., near Viroqua. Mr. Guist first homesteaded forty acres of land in Harmony town in 1865 on section 11, where he now resides. He enlisted in the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the State on garrison duty from 1861 to 1862, and was discharged by reason of his right hand being disabled. Mr. Guist was married in 1861 to Edith J. Sheldon. Their two children died while quite small, and in 1864, Mrs. Guist fol-

lowed them "over the river." In 1868 he again married. His second and present wife was Mary A. Burcham, by whom he has had six children—Robert E., Cynthia J., Mary E., Claudie J., Causie M., and an infant son.

William Johnston resides on section 20, where he pre-empted 100 acres in 1850. He was born in Cuyuga Co., N. Y., in 1808. In 1817 he accompanied his parents to Ontario, N. Y., where he received his education. In 1830 he was married to Jane Dickworth, and in 1850 they came to Harmony town. In 1862 his wife died, and in 1863 he was married to Betsy Kish. By his first wife he had nine children, two of whom are living—Martha, wife of Edward Patterson; Lora, wife of Lee Sterling. He had two sons in the army, but neither lived to return home.

Hon. John M. McLees came to what is now the town of Harmony, in 1852. He was born on the 2d of March, 1829, in Blue Rock township, Muskingum Co., Ohio. His father, Joseph McLees, a native Irishman, but of Scotch-Irish ancestry, came to America in 1801. He was a farmer and located upon a farm in Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1817, where he lived until the time of his death in December, 1848. Thus he lived and died upon the first land he owned in America. John M's mother was formerly Hannah Morrison, also of Scotch-Irish origin. She died in September, 1863, at Duncan Falls, Ohio. John M. remained at home, receiving a limited common school education, until twenty-three years of age, when he came west, landing at Warrens Landing on the Mississippi river, in the town of Bergen, on the 14th of April, 1852. On the 20th of May, of the same year, he located upon the farm which is still his home, in what now constitutes the town of Harmony. Mr. McLees was married on the 13th of June, 1849, to Sarah J. Herron, a native of Muskingum Co., Ohio, born Aug. 7, 1825. Her parents were Alexander and Elizabeth (Myers) Herron; the father a native of the Emerald Isle, and the mother of Pennsylvania. They have been blessed with eight children, seven of whom are living—Joseph H., of the town of Jefferson, Vernon county; William C., who died Oct. 5, 1870; Neal D., of the town of Jefferson, Vernon county; James A., now of Brown Co., Neb.; Daniel O., John W., Isaac S. and Abraham L. all of the town of Harmony. When Mr. McLees came into what was then Bad Ax county, the primitive was all too plainly apparent. He has passed through the experience of pioneer privation, danger and difficulty, which is incident to the first settlement of every country. At that time the entire county comprised the civil town of Bad Ax; later, Bergen was created, and his home was t rown into its limits; and in 1855, the town of Harmony was created, and was so named after the postoffice by that name of which Mr. McLees was postmaster, at his suggestion. In 1854 Mr. McLees held his first office, that of assessor of the town of Bergen. In 1855 he was chairman of the board for that town. He was again assessor in 1858. The same year he was elected justice of the peace, and, being reelected, served four years. In 1867 he was a member of the town board, and in 1868, became chairman. The same year he was chosen to represent the first district of Vernon county, in the Assembly. In 1878 and 1879 he was chairman of the town board, and therefore a member of the county board. He was a member of the committee of the county board for the erection of the new county buildings, serving as such for two years, until the work was all completed. It will thus be seen that Mr. McLees has led an active, prominent life. He is now possessed of a competency, owning about 800 acres of land, which is well improved and supplied with comfortable buildings. He devotes his attention to the management of his farm; raising grain and stock, and also dealing in the latter. Personally, Mr. McLees is a hale, hearty, jovial man, weighing about 200 pounds

or upward; a man of wide observation and information and a genial conversationalist.

Lars Olson is a native of Norway and was born on the Rumegan farm in 1849 and in 1851 emigrated with his parents to Dane Co., Wis. In 1852 he came to Harmony town and made a permanent settlement. Mr. Olson was married to Ellen Larson, in 1878, and they are the parents of one child—Lina O. Mr. Olson now owns 200 acres of land on section 15, with thirty-eight acres under cultivation. Mrs. Olson is also a native of Norway, but has been a resident of Harmony town for thirteen years.

Hartwell Allen was born June 26, 1833, in the town of Richford, Vt. where he received a thorough education. In 1856 he was married to Harriet S. Phillips, of Underhill, Va. In the same year himself and wife came to the town of Harmony and both have been foremost in the rank of education ever since. He is employed with his wife in teaching school and superintending schools in the town, in which capacity he served six and a half years. He was chairman of the board of supervisors in 1860, also in 1870. Mr. Allen, by honest industry and integrity, has saved sufficient to purchase 240 acres of land in the town of Harmony.

H. Parker Buswell, son of Ebenezer Buswell, and one of the most respected citizens of this town, found a home here in 1856. He was born in the good old State of New Hampshire, in 1831, and remained among its granite hills until 1856. He received a good education at the common schools and in 1856 came to this county, entering forty acres of land on section 21. The year following his settlement he was elected superintendent of schools and served for three years. In 1860 he was elected treasurer of the town but resigned the office in 1861, to enlist in the 1st Wisconsin Light artillery He served nine months and was forced to resign on account of ill health. Still wishing to lend his feeble aid in defense of the country, in 1864 he again enlisted, this time in the 1st Wiscon- Heavy Artillery and was honorably discharged in 1865, at the close of the war. Since coming back to his home he has been constantly in office with the exception of one year. Mr. Buswell has increased his farm of forty acres to one embracing 130 acres, but he still resides on the old homestead, first entered from the government. He was united in marriage, in 1858, to to Mary E. Thompson, who bore him five children—Loren A., Jackson P., Emma J., Mittie A. and Lyman A. Mrs. Buswell departed this life in 1867, and Mr. Buswell married for his second wife Josephine Bemis. She is the mother of five children, three of whom are now living—Lillian B., Olive A. and Gracie M.

John Stevenson, who became a resident of Vernon county in 1856, was born in the Dominion of Canada, in 1835. Two years later he was taken by his parents to Muskingum county and in 1842 to Noble Co., Ohio, and there resided until 1856, when the family came to Vernon county and located in Jefferson town. Our subject entered land in Hamburg town, and in 1866 purchased 160 acres of Nelson Ford, in the town of Harmony, adjoining his first entry, where he has since resided. In September, 1864, Mr. Stevenson enlisted in the 43d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, participating in the battle at Johnsonville, Tenn., and was honorably discharged in 1865. He was united in marriage, in 1862, to Rachel A. McLees, a sister of John M. McLees, one of the pioneers of Harmony town. They are the parents of six children—Hattie M., James E., Joseph W., Effie A., Walter J. and Nellie A. Mr. Stevenson was a member of the General Assembly of Wisconsin in 1876 from the first assembly district of Vernon county.

To most of our readers the name of D. W. Horton is very well known. He located in this county in 1860, and has been an enterprising and energetic farmer since that date. His father, Ebenezer Horton, was born in Wallingsford, Vt., in 1798, and in 1835 removed his family to Medina Co., Ohio, where the husband and father died, in 1879. Five chil-

dren were born to Ebenezer and Mary Horton, all of whom are living. D. W. Horton was but four years of age when his parents removed to Medina Co., Ohio, and he was there reared and educated. In 1860 he came to Harmony town and bought eighty acres of land on section 10, of William Herron, and has increased this farm to 200 acres. In 1864 Mr. Horton enlisted in the Union army, and served with honor until the close of the war. In 1863 Mr. Horton married Mary V. Classon. Mrs. Horton was born in Rock Co., Wis., in 1841, and is a daughter of Clark Classon, who settled in Beloit, Wis., May 15, 1836, when the village consisted of one log house. One of his daughters, Emily, was the second white child born in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Horton have three children—Mary, aged eighteen, Nellie, aged fifteen, and Hattie G., aged eight years.

Jesse Cowen was among the settlers who located here in 1861. He is a native of Noble Co., Ohio, and was reared and educated in the grand old "Buckeye State." In 1861 he came to Vernon county and purchased of his mother the southeast quarter of section 4 in Harmony township. In 1863 he came to the conclusion that it was not best for man to be alone, and he accordingly sought and won the hand of Lydia Powell, who was a year younger, but also a native of Noble Co., Ohio. This young couple have been blessed with five children—Albert H., Amanda J., Edna C., Nancy C. (born Jan. 10, 1875, and died at the age of one year) and R. B. Hays. Mr. Cowen has been honored with offices of trust in the township for the past fourteen years, a fitting tribute to the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

Andrew Newton, who located in the village of Newton in 1863, was born in Lebanon, Penn., in 1838. He there received a fair education, and in 1858 removed to Chicago, where he worked at the blacksmith trade for five years. He then came to Jefferson town, and from the date of his arrival until 1872, was engaged in farming. In 1872 he removed to Harmony town, and since then has been doing a large and prosperous business, working at his trade. He is the owner of a large shop, a fine residence and several vacant lots in the village. In 1865 he married Elizabeth Huoett, of this town. They are the parents of four children —Alice B., Eugene, Oscar and Mattie.

Torger Thoreson, who became a resident of Harmony town in 1869, was born in that cool and healthy country called Norway, in 1825. He came to these United States in 1867 and first located on Coon Prairie, but two years later bought 120 acres of land on section 1, where he has since resided. He has cultivated this land and now owns one of the best improved farms in the county, and is considered a most prosperous farmer. He was married in Norway to Randi Olson, who has borne him five children—Christian, Ole, Thomas, Edward and Matia. Mrs. Thoreson died in 1881, and Mr. Thoreson was again united in marriage, in 1882, to Carrie Knudson. They have an infant daughter—Regina.

Engebret P. Hage, a well known farmer of this town came in 1869. He was born in Norway, in 1852, and located in Vernon Co., Wis., when but seventeen years of age. His father, Erland P. Hage, came to the United States in 1867. He was born in Norway, in 1826. He, with his wife and six children, (Engebret, his oldest boy, being left in Norway for two years) located in this town, on section 1, where he died in 1875. His wife, Marit P. Hage, was born in Norway in 1830. She is still living, on forty acres of land selected from the old homestead, and with whom our subject resides. E. P. Hage purchased 210 acres of land at the administration sale, after his fathers' death and has improved it considerably. He has a library containing over 150 volumes, and a fine collection of old coins and a number of old relics.

August Larkie was born in Germany, in 1852, and came to Vernon county with his parents in 1870. Mr. Larkie was married in 1874 to Mollie Snick, and this union has been blessed with two children—Alorena and Mena. Mr. Larkie now own sixty-six acres of land on section 4.

Lorin A. Aiken, proprietor of the grist mill at Newton, the finest mill in Vernon county, was born in New Hampshire, in 1847. In 1851 he accompanied his parents to Dodge Co., Wis.; in 1855, to Waushara county; in 1858, to Dane county; in 1865, to Columbia county; in 1867, to Walworth county; in 1871, to Racine county; in 1876, to Chicago; in 1877, to Milwaukee; and in 1879, to the village of Newton. He purchased the combined grist and saw mill that was erected in 1868, by Martin Allen, and fitted it up with the latest improved machinery. It is supplied with four run of buhr stones, and three sets of roller mills, and has a daily capacity of 100 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of feed. The saw mill is operated by water power. Mr. Aiken also owns and farms 110 acres of land, on section 23. In 1864 he enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, and served till the close of the war—a period of ten months. Mr. Aiken was united in marriage, in 1869, to Emma Cave, of Columbia Co., Wis. They have six children—Albert, Percey, Lester, Elmer, Eva M., and Garfield.

CHAPTER XL.

THE TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Hillsborough is in the extreme northeastern corner of Vernon county, and is bounded on the north by Monroe county, on the east by Juneau county, on the south by the town of Greenwood, and on the west by the town of Forest. It comprises township 14, range 1 east, which contains thirty-six full sections besides six parts of sections, the northern line of which varies a quarter of a mile from being a straight east and west line, which was occasioned by the correction made in the original survey. The exact number of acres in the town is 23,583,76. The town was named in honor of several brothers by the name of Hill, one of whom, Vilentia B. Hill, made the first claim, and also the first improvement within the town. The surface of this town is composed of narrow ridges and valleys, both of which form good farming lands. It is well adapted to grass and stock raising, and is especially suited to sheep raising. Pure springs of clear cold water are found throughout the town. These produce streams of sufficient magnitude to afford fine mill privileges. Three branches of the Baraboo river, flow through the town. The south and most important branch is formed of two streams, one of which has its source in the springs and brooks of the western portion of the town. The other stream flows north from the town of Greenwood. These unite near the center of section 35, flow northeasterly and leave the town from section 25, uniting with the north branch near Union Center, Juneau county. This branch of the Baraboo affords a fine water power. The middle branch has its source in the springs in the northwest part of the town. This stream affords a fine water power on section 8. This stream flows in a southeasterly course, leaving the town from section 24, and soon after unites with the south fork. The north stream flows through what is known as the Mutch settlement. It leaves the town from section 12.

The timber of this town is such as is found throughout the county. Excellent white oak is found in great quantities; black oak, sugar maple and bass-wood being also common throughout these vast forests.

SETTLEMENT.

The first efforts toward the settlement of this town were made by Vilentia B. Hill, who located on the southeast quarter of section 14, in 1850. He also claimed forty acres on the southwest quarter of section 13, forty acres on the northeast quarter of section 23. His making claims on different sections is accounted for by the fact of the land not having been surveyed. In May, 1851, he began making improvements, and in August of the same year, moved his family to the place. Several other families came in about that time, but it is generally conceded that Mr. Hill made the first claim and broke the first land in the town. Mr. Hill was born in the town of Coldchester, Chittenden Co., Vt., in 1810. He married Mary J. Johnson; removed to Indiana, and from that State to Baraboo, Wis. He followed the business of milling for many years. He operated the first saw mill at Baraboo. After coming to Vernon county, he turned his atten-

tion to farming; made some improvements on his farm, but his health failed him and he made but little progress. He died Feb. 26, 1857, leaving his wife and six children, two sons and four daughters. Mrs. Hill was born in New Hampshire, in 1814, but was reared in New York State.

Several claims were made during the year 1851.

Charles Fritchie, a German, settled on section 1, during the summer of that year. Some three years later he sold to William Mutch and left the county. The same year Ambrose B. Cole settled on sections 1 and 12. He died in the Union army, during the Rebellion. The farm he claimed was still owned by members of his family, in 1884.

William and Alonzo Hill, brothers of V. B. Hill, the first to settle in the town, made claims in 1851. They settled with their families on section 24.

Ichabod B., another brother of the Hills, and a single man, came at the same time, but made no claim. He served in the 25th Missouri Volunteers during the Rebellion. At the close of the war he went to Kansas, where he died.

William Hill left Vermont, when a young man, was absent for a number of years; returned to his native State, where he married Mary Ann Meade and moved to the State of New York; from there he moved to Indiana, where he remained a short time and came to Wisconsin. In 1884 he was a resident of Juneau county.

Albert Field also made a claim in the fall of 1851, on the northwest quarter of section 35, where he settled in 1852.

N. W. Davis located on sections 27 and 34, about 1854. He sold out in 1860, and moved west of the Mississippi river.

Settlements were made very rapidly from this date on.

Thomas McClure settled early on section 4. In 1884 he was living at Elroy.

Nelson Brill located on section 27, remained till 1869, then removed to section 14, where he died about 1875.

John Fox settled on section 27, in 1855. He is deceased, and his widow and two sons live in this village.

Joseph Manhart is one of the early settlers of the town of Hillsborough. He was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1817. He learned the trade of a baker, and followed that occupation for many years, visiting several of the principal cities of Europe, pursuing his trade. He came to the United States in 1848, under the auspices of the German colony, which settled at Koskonong, in Jefferson county. He remained in that county about seven years; came to Hillsborough in the summer of 1855 and settled on the southeast quarter of section 26, where has since lived.

Stewart Forbes resides on section 2, in the town of Hillsborough. He has been a resident of this town since the fall of 1855. He left Scotland April 15, 1854; landed at Quebec, lived in Montreal sixteen months before coming to Wisconsin. He was born in county Aberdeen, in 1831. His father, Arthur Forbes, was a forester by occupation for fifty years. Mr. Forbes was married in Scotland to Margaret Mutch, a sister of the Mutch brothers of this town. Like many others of the pioneers of Vernon county, Mr. Forbes possessed but little of this world's goods when he came here. His first land was forty acres on section 3, where he built a log house and improved about eight acres. He located there about 1860, where he lived till 1864, when he sold out and bought his present farm of sixty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes have five children, three sons and two daughters—Stewart A., Ellen J., now Mrs. Lumsden; Maggie, Robert and Jesse. They lost one daughter, Isabel, who died at the age of two years. Mr. Forbes is a man highly esteemed in the community in which he lives, as an excellent neighbor and Christian gentleman. He and wife are members of the Church of United Brethren of this town.

Froland Willey came to the town of Hillsborough in the fall of 1855. He was born in Vermont in 1833. He removed to Ohio with his parents when a boy, and thence to Jefferson county, this State, in 1852. He came here from Jefferson county, and settled on section 24. In 1878 he sold his farm and removed to Kansas, but has returned and is again a resident of this town. He married Caroline M. Hill, March 9, 1856. This, as elsewhere stated, was the first marriage in the town of Hillsborough. Mr. and Mrs. Willey have four children—Fidelia, who married Charles Newman; Ida, wife of George Salts; Emma and Alonzo.

Charles Landrum, deceased, who built the first store in the plat of the village of Hillsborough, was born in Knox Co., Tenn., Dec. 12, 1821. When seven years of age his parents removed to Crawford Co., Ind., and thence to Howard county, in that State. He came to Vernon county in the spring of 1854. As already stated he kept the first store and was the second postmaster at Hillsborough. He enlisted in 1864 in the 47th, and served till the close of the war. He was regimental postmaster in the service. He lost his health in the army, which continued poor until his death. He married in Indiana, Lydia Hansbury, who is now a resident of Hillsborough.

James M Hansbury, first postmaster at Hillsborough, is a brother of Mrs Landrum. He removed from that village to Iowa, and thence to Ohio, where he still lives.

John Berry settled on section 17 in 1856. In 1884 he lived in Iowa.

O. A. Shout, a stage driver, came to the village about 1856. He drove stage from Hillsborough to Mauston. He died many years ago. His wife still lived in the village in 1884.

Patrick Healy resides on section 28, where he settled May 10, 1856. He came here from Walworth county, and purchased his land from the government. He is a native of county Galway, Ireland, born in 1826. He came to the United States when twenty-six years of age. He lived in Columbia Co., N. Y., before coming west and removed thence to Ohio, where he lived one year. His farm contains 180 acres of land well improved. His wife was Mary Ann Lloyd. They have nine children, five sons and four daughters.

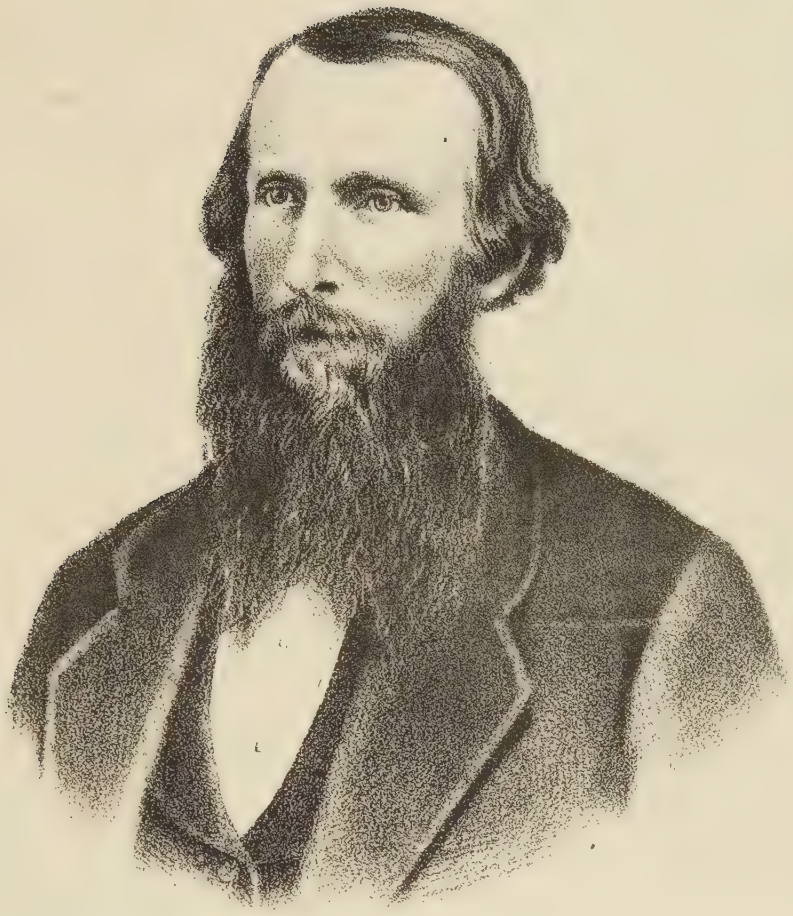
Moses Kimball Jeffries lives on section 17, where he settled in 1856. He purchased his land of the government. He was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1820. In his younger days he was engaged in boating on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, where he was a flat boat pilot for many years. He was married in Ohio to Maria L. Jones, who died in Madison while Mr. Jeffries with his family was en route to Vernon county. His second wife was Rachel Cann, who died March 15, 1883. Mr. Jeffries is one of the larger farmers of this town, and has a well improved farm.

Christian Engler resides on section 20, where he settled in October, 1857, on a government farm of eighty acres. He was born in Switzerland, in 1828; came to the United States in 1850 and located in Pennsylvania. He was married in Erie county, in that State, to Anna Barber, also born in Switzerland and came to the United States in 1852. After their marriage they came to Rock Co., Wis., where they lived several years before coming to Vernon county. They have three children, two sons and one daughter. Mr. Engler served in the War of the Rebellion in the 47th Wisconsin regiment from February, 1865, till the close of the war.

Among other early settlers were the following: Henry Hayfleich, who came in 1855 and located on section 32, where he still resides; Henry Link on section 36; J. H. Thompson on section 25; William F. Miland; P. W. Frost, who settled on section 34; A. R. Glidden on section 35; James Madden, who settled on the northwest quarter of section 34.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first marriage in the town was Froland Willey and Caroline M. Hill, a daughter of V. B. Hill, the first settler. They were married at



the home of the bride, March 9, 1856. The ceremony was performed by Daniel Kimball, Esq.

The first birth in the town was Andrew Mack, son of James and Cornelia Mack, who was born Sept. 13, 1852. The next birth was that of Eveline M. Hill, daughter of V. B. Hill, who in her young womanhood married James Hamilton.

The first death which occurred was that of Mrs Smith, who died Oct. 15, 1855. She was buried on section 1, where she died.

The first school was taught on the present village plat of Hillsborough.

The first religious services were held at the house of Elisha D. Douglass on section 14, by Rev. Joseph Hanlin, of the Free Will Baptist denomination.

ORGANIC.

The town of Hillsborough was organized in 1856. The first election was held at the house of Albert Field, April 3, of that year. H. H. Knox, Joseph M. Martin and Albert Field were chosen inspectors of election. It was voted to elect two assessors and two constables; also that a fund be raised for contingent expenses, of $100 for the ensuing year, and the same amount for the improvement of highways. Joseph M. Martin was elected chairman of the board and Albert Field and H. H. Knox, members of the side board; Daniel Kimball, town clerk; Edward Klopfleisch, treasurer; John S. Shreve and A. W. Rogers, assessors; Henry F. Daley, A. W. Rogers, Edward Klopfleisch and Daniel Kimball, justices of the peace; John S. Shreve and James S Carley, constables.

The total number of votes cast at this election was twenty-one.

The following were the town officers of 1883: Thomas J. Shear, chairman, C. F Waterman and L. L. Tongue, supervisors; C. F. Fine, clerk; Benjamin Salts, assessor; August F. Mohs, treasurer; William McGrath, D. N. Tripp and Josiah Jameson, justices of the peace; Thomas Sweet, Uriah Fox and S. J. Messenger, constables.

SCHOOLS.

Hillsborough has always been fully up to other towns of the county in educational matters. School house after school house has been added for the convenience of the scholars of the town, until, in 1884, there were seven within the town.

A short and comprehensive sketch of each school district is herewith given:

District No. 1. A comfortable and commodious frame, in a very pleasant location. Long been known and recognized as the "Blood school house." So named after one of the early settlers. A good attendance always, and large, especially in winter. The district lies near the county line of Juneau. Mr. Forbes, living near the school house, is an earnest friend to education. This school has done, and is yet doing good work. The people liberally support it.

District No. 2. A large frame, well furnished and in a cheerful locality, pleasantly situated among fertile farms. There is always a large attendance in the winter, and the school has been favored with some able teachers. It has been liberally patronized and supported. The people have been abundantly able to do so.

District No. 3. Comprises Hillsborough high and graded schools. The high school has not of late years, been as fortunate as its friends desired. While the people have been liberal and the board public spirited, the school has not been a success. This was, in part, owing to the unwise selection of teachers of good education in each case, but of poor executive ability. Mr. Conway taught some years ago and was very successful. Others as well educated, but otherwise not as able, followed him. It is to be hoped that the gentlemen selected in the future, will do much toward regaining for it, its former reputation. The building is commodious and well furnished, quite a credit to the village. The higher mathematics, German and Latin have been taught and considerable advancement made.

The people deserve to have a good school. There are beside two graded schools, one an intermediate and the other a primary. Good work has been done in these schools by a succession of very faithful teachers. Mr. George Mohs, a true friend of education, is at present, the district clerk.

District No. 5—A very neat and comfortable frame building near or at Trippville, situated on or near the road leading to Elroy, as also to Hillsborough and about seven miles from the latter place. Mr. Wyman, of Trippville, as also Mr Tripp have taken much interest in the school. The building is furnished with good maps and fairly seated. Good work has been done in this school by a succession of very excellent teachers.

District No. 6—School house about three and a half miles from Hillsborough, a fair and neat frame, quite in keeping with the rest of the school buildings in this town and a credit to public patronage and sentiment. This building is pleasantly situated on the highroad from Ontario to Hillsborough and has usually a good attendance.

District No. 8—Near the former residence and hard by the farm of Mr. Roger Williams, a large frame house and on the road leading from Viroqua to Hillsborough. It is some four miles from the latter place, has ample accommodations for a large attendance, and yet this district is in need of a graded school with two departments. Sixty to seventy pupils are in daily attendance through the winter, among whom are many Bohemians.

The schools of Hillsborough, with the exception of No. 8, are attended chiefly by Americans, but this district has several Bohemian families. Good work has almost always been done in this school and the people, chief among whom has been Mr. R. Williams, take an active part in school matters.

District No. 4—Only a part of this district is situated in the town of Hillsborough.

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1882 AND 1883.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

The steady and continuous growth of the public schools may be seen by reference to the table following:

The year 1882 was in advance of former years and the increase of 1883 speaks well for the public spirit which makes the schools so successful.

	1882	1883	Incr.
Whole No. children of school age in Co	8,935	9,038	83.
Whole No. of days school was taught	20,228	24,148	3,920
Whole No. of pupils who attended school	6,601	6,790	189
Whole No. of days attendance of pupils	364,126	397,154	33,028
No. of new school houses built	9	13	4
Cost of school houses built	$4,635	$11,322	$6,687
Outlay for teacher's wages	$18,921	$25,325	$6,404
Total am't paid for school purposes	$28,013	$38,168	$10,155
Total number of schools in county	157	160	3
Whole number of licensed teachers		182	

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

In 1884 the town of Hillsborough had but two Church organizations—the Free Will Baptist, which is in the village of Hillsborough and the United Brethren, located on section 12. The former has been mentioned in connection with the village history. The latter denomination was organized in February, 1859, by Rev. Mr. Carter. The members of the first class were as follows: Stewart Forbes and wife, Henry Seaman, Charles Emmonds, T. W. Allan, Mr. Sweet and wife and Michael Keller.

The church building of this denomination was dedicated Feb. 10, 1870, by the Rev. James Johnson, of Freeport. This edifice is situated on the land between the towns of Hillsborough and Wonowoc in Juneau county; a part of the building being in each county. The building, which is of an imposing appearance, is 36x50 feet, surmounted by a spire seventy-four feet high. The cost of this church was about $2,500. The trustees at the time of the erection of the church were: James Mutch, Benjamin B. Thompson, C. G. Thompson, Frederick Babcock, Lewis O. Galley and William Mutch. The pastor at that date was Rev. Elisha Borce.

CEMETERIES.

There are three cemeteries within the town of Hillsborough. One is situated near the vil-

lage of Hillsborough. This, in 1884, was a pretty and well kept cemetery. Another is situated on the southwest quarter of section 12, in connection with the United Brethren church; this also has always received much care and attention. The third cemetery is on section 14.

TRIPPVILLE POSTOFFICE.

Trippville is the name of a postoffice on section 8, which was established in 1867. It was named after Dier Tripp, who has been postmaster ever since its establishment. At this point there is a store and saw-mill, both of which were built by Mr. Tripp. This place is located on what is known as the head waters of the middle Hillsborough branch of the Baraboo river. Mr Tripp began the erection of a saw mill here in 1860, which he completed in 1862. It was at first operated by an overshot wheel, but in the spring of 1883, he made a change in the mill, substituting a turbine wheel, and making other changes. The capacity of the mill is 10,000 feet per twenty-four hours. Mr. Tripp established his store in August, 1871. He came to the town with Elisha Douglass and A. B Cole in May, 1851. He made a claim on section 1, but while absent to earn money to pay for the same, his claim was jumped. He then bought land on sections 3 and 11, finally settled on the latter. In the fall of 1855 he built a log house on section 8, which was still standing in 1884. Mr. Tripp was a young man at the time and kept bachelor's hall for two years and then moved to section 3 and from there to section 11 and a little later still moved back to the mill site.

THE VILLAGE OF HILLSBOROUGH.

This village, which is located on the north side of the south branch of the Baraboo river, on section 35, takes its name from that of the town of Hillsborough, in which it situated.

A man named Warren, made the original entry of land at this point, in October, 1854, for Albert Field. Edward Klopfleisch, of New York city, when looking for a location in the west, visited this site, and was favorably impressed, especially with the mill power afforded by the Baraboo river. He accordingly made arrangements with Albert Field for the purchase of the land, and with Otto Hammer, became proprietor of the village plat, including the mill power. This was in the autumn of 1854. Mr. Klopfleisch, with his brother-in-law, Schlolmilch, at once began the erection of a saw mill. Otto Hammer, who was partner in the town site, came from Jefferson county in 1855, bringing his family and personal effects with him.

In 1857, while Mr. Klopfleisch was in New York city, the attention of John Mollinger and Ambrose Armbruster was called to the importance of this point, and as the result, Mr. Armbruster returned with Mr. Klopfleisch and purchased the interest held by Mr. Schlolmilch. Mr. Mollinger also, at the same time securing an interest in the location. A small grist mill was erected, and soon became a mill of much importance. Mr. Armbruster brought his family here from New York city in 1861. The following year Jacob Sallenbach took an interest in the business. In 1865 a mill was erected which was still doing service in 1884. In 1868 Mr. Klopfleisch retired and the company has since been known as the Hillsborough Mill Company, the firm being composed of Ambrose Armbruster, Otto Hammer and John Mollinger. This flouring mill has always been an important factor in the growth and advancement of this part of the county, and has always been noted for making an excellent grade of flour and also for upright, honest dealing on the part of its owners. For many years it was the only mill throughout a large scope of country. The mill building is 42x50 feet. At first there were but two run of stone, but later another run was added, and still later, another, making four in all. This mill is situated on the south branch of the Baraboo river; its pond contains fully a hundred acres, and gives force to the machinery of the mill through a head of sixteen feet.

Short sketches are here subjoined, of the three gentlemen who have so long comprised this mill company. Mr. Mollinger was the only one surviving in the autumn of 1883.

Ambrose Armbruster was born in Baden, Germany, in 1818, and came to America in 1847 from Paris. He left Paris on account of the revolution which had broken out in France, in consequence of which all Germans had been requested to leave that country. He was married in Paris to his present widow Caroline Steurer, born in Strasburg in 1826. Mr. Armbruster died June 8, 1883. He left three children—Emma, wife of Robert Hammer, Anna, wife of Frank Kauffmann, and Robert, the two later natives of this town.

Otto Hammer, Sr., died Aug. 6, 1883. He was born at Altonburg, Saxony, April 10, 1816. He came to America early in the year 1846; lived two years in New York city and came to Wisconsin in 1848 and to Hillsborough, as stated, in 1855. He was married in New York city to Eliza Belton. They have had six children, three sons and three daughters; five of them–Otto, Josephine, Robert, Eddie and Minnie–are now living at or near Hillsborough, and one, Mrs. O. B. Wyman, at Viroqua. Mr. Hammer, was a cabinet maker by trade and a skillful workman. He pursued his occupation in several of the capital cities of Europe, including Berlin and Paris. He came to New York from the latter city.

John Mollinger was born in the city of Kaiserslautern, on the Rhine, in the province of Bavaria, in 1813. Like the other members of the firm, he came to New York from Paris in 1845. He worked eighteen years at his trade in New York city before coming here in 1865.

In July, 1883, Barney & Bailey, who had the use of Albert Field's money, put in operation a fine steam saw mill, together with various kinds of wood working machinery. This mill is located at the upper end of the mill pond of the flouring mills of the Hillsborough Milling Company. It is propelled by a forty horse power engine. This mill does a large business in sawing to order, railroad timber, wagon and plow material and steamed, bent sleigh runners and wagon hounds.

BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The village was surveyed in the summer of 1856, by James H. Daniels, at that time county surveyor.

The first store was opened in 1855, by Charles Landrum, in a log building used for this purpose and also for a residence. Mr. Landrum soon after took in as his partner Daniel Busbee, who continued a member of the firm but a short time, after which he removed to the town Greenwood, and later to the village of Avelanche, where he engaged in the milling business.

Charles Landrum built the store now occupied by Charles Lind, in 1857. A number of years later he erected the store afterward used by Roger Williams, also the dwelling house adjoining, both of which are now owned by his widow.

The first wagon maker of the place was Jason Noyes, who was still a resident of the town in 1884.

The first blacksmith was Albert Kuersten, who is now deceased.

The first shoemakers were Lind Brothers, one of whom, Jacob is deceased and the other, Peter, is still in trade in the village.

The first school in the village was taught by Sobrina Burwell, in the summer of 1855. This school was held in the log dwelling house of Otto Hammer; the family of Mr. Hammer living in the house at the time. This was the first house erected in the village.

The first sermon preached in Hillsborough, was delivered by Rev. Joseph Hanlan, of the Free Will Baptist Church.

The first and only regular attorney of the place was A. T. Johnson.

The first hotel was erected by Irving Thompson, who sold it to Prentiss Abbott, who run it as a hotel for several years.

The hotels of 1884 were the Kuersten House and the American House. The former was built by Albert Kuersten, who died before its completion, and it was finally finished by his widow, who became the wife of John Phair. This is a log and frame structure, well built and cost about $3,000.

The American House was built in part by Jacob Lind, and completed by Alexander Wood. In 1884 this was operated by Benjamin Salts.

The Hillsborough postoffice was established in 1855. The first postmaster was Morgan Hansbury, who was succeeded by Charles Landrum, and he by Thomas J. Shear, who was still holding the office in 1884. This became a money order office in 1869. The first order was drawn by J. W. Leverett; amount $5. The first order was paid to N. D. Beebe, of Warren, Ill. There were 14,630 orders drawn from this office from the time it became a money office in 1869, to Sept. 4, 1883, a period of a little more than fourteen years.

The first physician of Hillsborough and vicinity, was Dr. Winslow. Other physicians have been here: Dr. Meritt, Dr. Smith, Dr. J. R. Rundlett, who was a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, practiced here about ten years and left in the fall of 1880. He is now at Augusta, in Eau Claire county; Dr. B. B. Numan graduated at Keokuk; practiced here a short time and is now located in the town of Forest. The present physicians are Dr. Francis Pinch and Dr. C. H. Morris.

This village is tributary to a large tract of country; it has had a gradual, healthful growth and is an excellent trading point. The merchants and other business men are doing a thriving business. A number of fine business houses were erected in 1881 or 1882. The business of the place in 1884 was in the hands of the following: A. Winslow & Son and Richard N. Pinch, druggists; Shear & Mitcher, Charles L. Lind and Charles Ludwig, general dealers; Charles F. Hyde and F. Fine, grocers; M. E. Crary, boots and shoes; A. Mitcher, furniture; Roger Williams, grocery and restaurant; R. Hammer, hardware; George Chapman, harness maker; John P. Phair, proprietor of the Kuresten Hotel; Benjamin Salts, proprietor of the American House; Fred Schnell, brewery; Kaufman & Fincher, wagon makers and blacksmiths.

RELIGIOUS.

The Free Will Baptist Church was organized Feb. 28, 1869, by Rev. O. W. Smith, of Mendota, Ill. Those who joined the first class were: Joel W. Parker and wife, Albert Field and wife, E. D. Douglass and wife, James W. Leverett and wife, Mary E. Parker, James W. Parker, Mrs. Vienna Winslow, Mrs. Emily Carr and Mrs. Sarah Mitchell.

Rev. O. W. Smith preached for the society a few weeks and was succeeded by Rev. Isaac Jackson and his wife, the Rev. Mary Jackson, both of whom officiated till July, 1871, when Rev. Jeremiah Phillips became pastor, and remained for two years. After this Rev. J. H. Daniels, a minister of the Church of the Disciples, preached for the congregation for some time. Among other ministers who have supplied this Church were: Rev. F. M. Washburn, who was principal of the schools at Elroy; Rev. Robert Colley was pastor for a few months, and perhaps others whose names have not appeared.

The church building is a frame structure, erected in 1871, at a cost of $1,200.

I. O. O. F. Lodge, of Hillsborough, No. 253, was organized March 1, 1876, by N. C. Bradley, D. D. G. M. The following were charter members: Roger Williams, T. J. Batman, Egbert Wyman, Otto Hammer and Herman Sherman. The first officers were: T. J. Shear, N. G.; Roger Williams, V. G.; Egbert Wyman, R. S.; Charles Landrum, treasurer; L. B. Upham, secretary. Since its organization this lodge has lost, by death, the following: Henry Link, died March 12, 1881; Charles Landrum, died Aug. 17, 1881, and J. W. Allen, Aug. 30, 1881. In

1884 the lodge numbered fifty-four, and was in good condition.

Rebekah Lodge, No. 173, of Hillsborough, was organized Nov 28, 1882, by Van S. Bennett, grand master. The following constituted the charter membership: Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Tongue, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Shear, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Williams, Mr. and Mrs C. J. Lind, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Myers.

The first officers of this lodge were: Mrs. L. L. Tongue, N. G.; Miss Helen Shear, V. G.; Mrs. J. B. Fox, secretary; R. Williams, treasurer. In 1884 this lodge was in a very flourishing condition and numbered thirty-one members.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Among those who have been instrumental in clearing up the timbered land of this town and improving the many farms within its limits, together with those who have combined to increase the manufacturing and business industries are the following named citizens:

Mrs. Sarah A. Couper, of Hillsborough, is the widow of James C. Couper, one of the earlier settlers of Vernon county. Mr. Couper was born in Yorkshire, England, March 1, 1821. He came to New York when a young man, where he was married to his present widow, Sarah Ann Scuts. They came west to Dodge Co., Wis., soon after they were married; thence to Marquette county. They came to Vernon county and located in the town of Union in 1850, being one of the first families in that town. Mr. Couper took up a farm of government land which he improved. He was a man of some education and in early life was very fond of hunting and this part of Vernon county afforded ample opportunity for sport of that kind. He accumulated considerable property and died Feb. 17, 1883. Mrs. Couper was born March 4, 1828. She has one daughter, Mary Ann, wife of George H. Blackburn, of the town of Union.

Elisha D. Douglass located on section 14 in November, 1851. This land he had entered the previous April. He was born in Italy, Yates Co., N. Y., in 1822, and lived there till thirteen years of age. He then accompanied his parents to Pennsylvania and was there married to Mary J. Kerr. In 1847 he removed to Baraboo, Wis., and four years later to his present farm. In 1861 he enlisted in the 16th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was severely injured at the battle of Shiloh, necessitating his discharge shortly after. Mr. Douglass lost his first wife Feb. 14, 1872. His present wife was Mrs. Anna M. Edwards, widow of Elias Edwards. Ten children were born to the first union, five sons and five daughters. Mrs. Douglass had three children by her former husband.

Dier N. Tripp is proprietor of what is known as Trippville in the town where he has been merchant, postmaster and mill owner for many years. He was born in the town of Nassau, Renssalaer Co., N. Y., April 27, 1836. He is a son of Gideon Tripp, who removed with his family to Michigan in 1837. Mr. Tripp came to Vernon county about the 10th of May, 1851. At that time he only had ten cents which he gave away and commenced work at nine dollars per month to earn himself a home and has been a resident of Hillsborough town since that date. On the 8th of December, 1856, he married Sally L. Hammond, a native of Allegany Co., N. Y., and daughter of Charles C. Hammond, also a native of New York, who removed his family to Juneau Co., Wis. Mr. Tripp built the mill in the years 1861 and 1862 and commenced in the mercantile business in August, 1871. On the 14th day of November, 1871, his mill burned—a loss of at least $3,000—with no insurance, and in fifty-five working days he rebuilt and started the mill in better shape than it was before it burnt. At the date of Nov. 15, 1883, he is quite certain he is the oldest resident in what is known as the "L" of Vernon county. Mr. and Mrs. Tripp have four children—Gideon, who married Ann Crary; Nancy L., wife of Erastus Mitchell, Jr.; Alice and Grace.

Albert Field is one of the pioneers of Vernon county, and one of the very earliest settlers of the town of Hillsborough. He was born in the town of Falmouth, Cumberland Co., Maine, Aug. 15, 1821. He is a son of Bracket Field, who was born in the same town and lived there all his life. Mr. Field was reared on a farm, married Angelina Hall April 10, 1845, and in the fall of 1851 went with their only child, Marietta, aged eighteen months, to Sauk Co., Wis. The following February, 1852, he came to Vernon county and entered the northwest quarter of section 35, in town 14 north, range 1 east, where he still resides. He now owns about 2,000 acres of land in this and adjoining towns, and is extensively engaged in farming and dealing in hard wood timber and stock raising. Mr. and Mrs. Field have had five children, three of whom are living. Their only son, Walter, is an attorney-at-law at Viroqua. Their two daughters are: Marietta, wife of L. B. T. Winslow, and Ella L. Mr. and Mrs. Field are members of the Free Will Baptist Church.

James Mutch is the elder of five brothers who were early settlers in the town of Hillsborough—John, Robert, William and Alexander are the other four. The first three are still residents of the town. James Mutch was born in Scotland, in 1826, and in 1850, with his brother William, emigrated to Ohio. In 1853, William came to Wisconsin to look for land for the two. While he was in this State, James returned to Scotland, and was there married to Jane Tough. William had bought a farm of a man named Fritchie, in the town of Hillsborough, Vernon county, and in 1854, James and wife came direct to the new purchase. William lived with his brother and family for several years, and then purchased 320 acres of land on sections 1 and 12, which, with some subsequent additions, comprises the farms of the two brothers. James Mutch is a man highly esteemed in the community in which he lives. He is liberal in his support of Churches and schools, and, although not a member of that body, assisted most liberally in erecting the United Brethern church of the village, and in supporting it. Mr. Mutch and wife have two children—William and Clarence. William, the other brother, married Harriet Bennett, and nine children have been sent to bless their union. He is also a prominent and well known citizen of Hillsborough town, and at present is on a visit to his native land—"Bonnie Scotland."

Henry Haflich was one of the pioneers of 1855. He was born in Perry township, Union Co., Penn., Nov. 7, 1818. His parents were Jacob and Elizabeth (Yeller) Haflich, both natives of Pennsylvania. They removed to Ohio about 1824, and settled in Stark county, where they remained a few years, then removed to Richland county, in the same State, where they have died since Henry has been a resident of Vernon county. Mr. Haflich was married in Richland Co., Ohio, to Mary B. Miller, a native of England. In 1855, he came to Vernon county, and entered land on section 32, of this town, where he has since resided. This land was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and the home of wild animals. Mr. Haflich in his early life remembers of killing ten bear and over one hundred deer. His principal meat for years was wild game. He worked earnestly and sturdily for several years to clear his land, and now rejoices in the possession of one of the finest farms in the town, well supplied with good farm buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Haflich are the parents of four children—Elizabeth M. born in Sauk county, Sept. 9, 1851; Sarah J. born in Sauk county, Aug. 2, 1853; Jacob Z. born in Vernon county, Oct. 14, 1857; Alice A. born in Vernon county, July 19, 1859.

George Lacy is a well known farmer, residing on section 3. His father E. Urial Lacy, was born in Ohio, Jan. 1, 1794. He was reared in his native State, and was there married. About 1844, he emigrated to Dane Co., Wis.,

and there bought and improved a farm. In 1846, he lost his wife, and ten years later came to Vernon county. He purchased a farm of Abner Dayton, who had entered the land from the government. This farm is now owned by his son George, who came into possession in 1865. Mr. Lacy died on this farm March 19, 1867, aged seventy-three years. Ten of his children reached maturity—Esther, Henry, Cynthia, Emily, Clarissa, Laura, Martha, Harrison, George and Orlin. George, the ninth child and third son of this large family, was born in Loraine Co., Ohio, in 1842. He was but a small child when his parents removed to Dane Co., Wis., and in 1862, he enlisted from there in company A, 23d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served till the close of the fratricidal struggle, and was present at the following engagements: Chickasaw Bayou, Miss., Arkansas Post, Ark., Cypress Bend, Greenville, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, siege and capture of Vicksburg, siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. Since the war, he has been engaged in farming. Mr. Lacy married Frances Conley, and they have two children—Mary L. M. and Enno H.

Carl Ludwig came to Hillsborough as early as 1854 and located permanently the following year. At the same time came William Link and Julius Hohfeldt. Mr. Ludwig made a claim in Mr. Links name of 160 acres on section 36 and this land was divided between the two, Mr. Ludwig receiving one hundred acres and Mr. Link sixty acres. Mr. Ludwig was born in Muhlhausen Thueriengen, Germany, in 1831, and came to the United States in 1851. He first stopped in Ohio and went from there to Dane Co., Wis., where he remained two years previous to coming to Vernon county. He first engaged in farming but in 1858 commenced the manufacture of beer in a small log building. He afterward erected the present brewery and continued the business until 1874, when he sold to the present proprietor. He engaged in the mercantile trade in 1876 and has since continued in that business. Mr. Ludwig was married in Dane Co., Wis., to Rosina Schuman, a native of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig are the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living—one son and eight daughters.

Erastus Mitchell resides on the old homestead on section 33, where his father, Royal Mitchell, located in 1855, purchasing his land of the government. Royal Mitchell was a pioneer settler of Hillsborough town and well known to all the early inhabitants. He was born in New York Oct. 14, 1805, and was there reared to manhood. He married Susan Shear and subsequently removed to Michigan, locating near Jackson. He returned to New York, and after stopping a while in Erie county, came to Dane Co., Wis, in 1852 and in 1855 to Vernon county. Mrs. Mitchell died Sept. 13, 1873, and her husband followed her over the dark river on March 20, 1874. They were the parents of two children—Erastus and Ruth Ann. Erastus was born in Erie Co., N. Y., March 16, 1836, and now resides on the home farm of 120 acres. He married Amanda Betts, a native of New York. They have four children—Harriet A., born in 1860, Erastus, Jr., born in 1865, Susan S., born in 1871, and Julia, born in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, are members of the Free Will Baptist Church. Mrs. Mitchell's father, Charles G. Betts, came from Dane county to Vernon county with his family in 1856. He located on a government claim on section 10, of this town, where he lived till his death in September, 1866. He was a native of New York. His wife still survives and resides on the old homestead.

William F. Salts resides on section 24, where he owns sixty acres and also owns eighty acres just south of the home farm on section 25. Mr. Salts is a son of William Salts, who was born in Duchess Co., N. Y., in 1790, and when three years of age removed to Columbia county, in the same State, with his parents. He there married Reliance Ticknor, a native of Massachusetts. They removed to Erie Co., N. Y., in 1829, where Mrs. Salts died Aug. 15, 1844. In

1854 he removed to Jefferson Co., Wis. Mr. Salts then resided with his children until his death. He was the father of ten children, eight of whom are living—Mary J., widowed wife of Q. A. Shout, who died in Hillsborough in 1874; Angeline, twice married, first husband Levi Cooper, present husband Irving Thompson, of Chippewa Co., Wis.; William F., Benjamin, Milan P., Hannah, wife of Thomas Knowles, Julia, wife of Henry Brooks, and Elijah, a resident of of Chippewa Co., Wis. William F. Salts was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., March 14, 1823. He married Hannah Phillips, who died Feb. 4, 1862. His present wife was Hannah Bower, a native of Germany. Of the eight children born to the first union, only three are living. Mr. Salts came to Vernon county in the spring of 1855 and has since resided here. He is quite extensively engaged in the dairy business.

Isaac Shear resides on section 13, where he settled in 1855. Mr. Shear is one of the several brothers of that name, early settlers of this town. He was born in Erie Co., N. Y., in May, 1823; married Eunice Kibbie, also a native of that State. Mr. Shear's farm contains eighty acres, forty of which he bought of the government. Mr. and Mrs. Shear have four children—Isaac, George, Lafayette and Mary Jane. Mr. Shear came from Jefferson county, this State, to Vernon county.

L. B. T. Winslow, of Hillsborough village, is a son of Aaron Winslow, the first regular physician in Vernon county. Dr. Winslow was born at Falmouth, Maine, Jan. 31, 1810. He was of English descent and a lineal descendant of Edward Winslow, the first governor of Plymouth colony, whose inhabitants landed at Plymouth Rock from the good *Mayflower*, in 1621. Dr. Winslow graduated from the medical department of Bowdoin College in 1839, and was first located for practice in New Orleans, and subsequently in Alabama. He was a strong abolitionist, and never hesitated to express his sentiments when called upon to do so. Such a course naturally led to many petty and trifling annoyances, and the doctor accordingly returned to Maine. He resided at Monmouth six years and at Brunswick (both in Maine), a longer period. In 1849 he went to California, two years later returned to Maine, and in 1853 went westward to Illinois. In 1855 he came to Vernon Co., Wis., and located in the town of Greenwood, and improved a farm. He was probably the only regular physician in Vernon county for a number of years. In 1872 he established himself in the drug trade at Hillsborough village, and was succeeded by his son, Loring B. T., in 1876. He died March 28, 1883. Politically, Dr. Winslow was a whig and subsequently a republican, casting his last two votes at the general election for prohibition. He was a careful observer, a good talker, and frank and open on all questions. He was not a member of any religious denomination, but a firm believer in the Bible, as the revealed will of God. Dr. Winslow was married in 1839 to Vienna True, also a native of Maine. At his death he left a widow and three children—Frances, wife of Adolphus P. Mallow; Edwin M., in Winnebago, Ill., and L. B. T. This latter son was born at Monmouth, Maine, as were the other children. On Jan. 1, 1864, he enlisted in company I, 6th regiment, Wisconsin Infantry, and participated in many serious engagements, witnessing the final surrender of Lee at Appomattox. After the war he returned home, and engaged in farming on the old homestead in the town of Greenwood. Mr. Winslow was married in 1870 to Marietta, daughter of Albert Field, of Hillsborough. Of their four children three are living—Edwin, Vienna and Ella Z. The eldest son, Albert, is dead.

Charles G. Betts resides on section 16. He is the son of Charles G. Betts, Sr., who settled government land on section 10, in 1856. Charles G. Betts, Sr., was a native of New York, and came with his family to the eastern part of Wisconsin several years previous to his settlement in Vernon county. He resided till his

decease on the farm where he settled. His death occurred in September, 1866. The maiden name of his wife was Samantha Dorleska Roza. She still occupies the homestead farm. Charles G. Betts, Jr., was born in Cortland Co., N. Y., in 1839. His wife was Mary Cornell. They have four children.

Patrick Maddin is one of the early settlers of Hillsborough. He settled on section 34, April 18, 1856, where he still lives. He purchased his farm, 160 acres, of the government. Mr. Maddin was born in county Galway, Ireland, Nov. 19, 1820. He came to the United States when thirteen years of age. His father, John Maddin, died in Ireland. Mr. Maddin made several trips between this country and Europe before making his location here. Before coming to Wisconsin he lived several years in the eastern States; thence to Ohio, where he lived eight years and a half. He married Mary Holly, a native of Ireland. They have seven children living, and two deceased. Mr. Maddin's farm was originally heavily timbered, and it required many years of constant work to clear up and improve the excellent farm that Mr. Maddin now possesses. When he settled here in the wilderness, bear, deer and other wild game were abundant, and many are the stories he can tell of his experience with these wild beasts of the forest. Now all these have passed away and given place to cultivated farms and a dense population.

Angustus Mohs has been a resident of Vernon county since 1856. He was born in Anhalt, Germany, in 1828, and came to the United States in 1852. He lived two years in New York and then spent a like period in Milwaukee and Madison, Wis. In 1856 he came to Hillsborough and worked for the mill company for two years. In 1858 he bought a farm in the town of Forest, and after farming for several years returned to Hillsborough in 1865 and engaged in the saloon business. He sold out in 1867 and was a farmer in the town of Greenwood until 1874. Of late years he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits. Mr. Mohs was married in 1874 to Mrs. Sophia (Busse) Lind, widowed wife of C. L. Lind. They have two children—Ida and Freddie. Mrs. Mohs had four children by her former marriage.

Milan Salts resides on section 25, on a farm which he entered in 1856. He was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., in April, 1827; came to Jefferson Co., Wis., in the spring of 1845, but returned the following year to New York. He married Janet Mitchell, a daughter of Knowlton Mitchell, who settled in Vernon county in the spring of 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Salts have ten children, six sons and four daughters. His farm contains 120 acres. Mr. Salts went overland to California from New York in 1852; was absent two and one half years.

Henry, son of Jacob and Angusta Lind, pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Germany in 1834. He attended school there until fourteen years of age, when he engaged in teaming in West Baden, Germany. At seventeen years of age he, in company with his parents, left his native land and came to America. They landed at New York city and came directly to Wisconsin, settling in Washington county. He was there married in February, 1857, to Mary Coe, born in Steuben Co., N. Y. In June following he came to Vernon county and purchased timber land, on section 12, town 13, range 1 east, and commenced to improve a farm. He has built a good log house, to which he has made a frame addition. In 1882 he built a frame barn, 30x40 feet, with a stone basement. Mr. and Mrs. Lind have five children—Lorinda, Matilda, Ida, Arthur and Charles.

Hon. Thomas J. Shear is one of the prominent merchants of Hillsborough village. He was born in Erie Co., N. Y., in 1836. His education was obtained in the common schools and later at the Springville Academy. When about eighteen years of age he engaged in teaching school and came to Vernon county in the spring of 1858 and located permanently

in Hillsborough in the spring of 1859. He taught the village school for several winter terms and finally bought a farm on section 24. On Feb. 23, 1865, he enlisted in the 47th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, but ill health prevented him from doing active service. In the summer of 1865 he was clerk of a military court in the State of Tennessee. In 1867 he was elected to the position of superintendent of schools of Vernon county, and served two years. On Oct. 1, 1870, Mr. Shear engaged in mercantile trade in the village of Hillsborough, and the present firm of Shear & Mitcher was formed in September, 1882. Mr. Shear has been postmaster of the village since 1871, and was town clerk for many years. He is the present chairman of the town board. Mr. Shear was elected to the Wisconsin House of Representatives in the fall of 1881, and served one term. Mr. Shear married Emergene Woodbury, also a native of New York They have four children—Helen, Myrtie, Wesley and Byron, the three latter natives of Wisconsin. Mr. Shear's father died in New York and his mother made her home with her son until her death.

Charles Beal was born April 7, 1823, in Ichalsham parish, county Sussex, England. He came to America when eighteen years of age and settled at Oneida Co., N. Y. He there engaged in farming and tanning. Charlotte Buss came over the same year from England and settled in Waterville, Oneida Co., N. Y. Charlotte Buss was married to Charles Beal in New York State, Oneida Co., in November, 1846. The family consists of four daughters, two eldest daughters deceased; the two living are: Charlotte, the wife of Charles Fowler, and Adelaide. John Beal, the father of Charles Beal, came to Utica, N. Y., in 1848. He married his last wife when he was eighty years of age, and died in Utica, N. Y., when he was ninety years old. Charles Beal came to Wisconsin in 1851, locating in Dodge Co., afterwards in Sauk county. In 1859 he came to the town of Hillsborough, Vernon Co., Wis., and located on section 3, where he now resides, and owns eighty acres of land. He purchased his farm of Thomas Linden in 1859. Charles Beal enlisted in the 49th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served till the close of the war.

Peter Shear is one of several brothers who are among the earlier settlers of this town. He came here in 1859, and engaged with his brothers in the manufacture of baskets at Hillsborough. His father, Isaac Shear, was a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Shear has been twice married; his first wife, Ellen Warner, died in New York. He has six children, three sons and three daughters.

Carlos F. Waterman resides on section 2. His settlement dates from the year 1859 He was born in Windsor Co., Vt., in 1826, where he lived till twenty-five years of age, when he went to Dane Co., Wis., and located at Stoughton and engaged in farming. He came here as stated in 1859; bought forty acres of his farm of H. Seaman, and eighty acres of Marshall Southwick. He resides on the eighty acres. He was married in Vermont, to Maria Everett. His father, John Waterman, died when his son was but one year old. His mother, Melinda (Knapp) Waterman, died a year later. Mr. Waterman is the only member of his father's family who settled in Vernon county. His parents had nine children, seven of whom settled in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Waterman have two children—Ida, wife of Elliott Wyman, and Fred, at home. The children were born in Dane Co., Wis. Mr. Waterman's present farm contains 100 acres.

John Wesley Allen settled in the town of Hillsborough, on section 28, in 1860. He located on section 14, in 1877, on a farm which he bought of John M. Bennett. He died Aug. 31, 1881. Mr. Allen was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., January, 1819. He was reared in his native State; married Lavina Boyer, who was born in the same county. They came to Jeffer-

son Co., Wis., where they resided several years before settling in Vernon county. Mr. Allen was one of the well known citizens of Vernon county. He occupied the office of county treasurer two terms. His widow still resides at the homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Allen had thirteen children, three sons and ten daughters; nine of the children are still living. Their two sons, Thomas J. and Ethan A. reside on the old homestead. The former was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1856; married Alice Sheldon, daughter of George W. Sheldon, of this county. They have one son—Clyde. Ethan A. was born in the town of Hillsborough, in 1864. The homestead farm now owned by Thomas J. and Ethan A. contains 185 acres.

William Conway has lived in Hillsborough town for about nineteen years. He was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, in March, 1810, and emigrated to the United States in 1843. In 1861 he came to Vernon county and purchased his present farm of William P. Frost, who occupied the farm for several years, and made some improvements. This farm lies on section 34. Mr. Conway married Johanna Gorman, and they have had eight children. Of these, only four are living—Patrick, who resides on a farm adjoining his father, John G., who has admirably fitted himself for a professional career, Ellen and Mary. The deceased children died in infancy.

David Johnson resides on section 25 in the town of Hillsborough, where he settled in January, 1865. This land was entered by Joseph Kimball who left it to his son, Daniel, and he sold it to J. F. Teeter, from whom Mr. Johnson purchased. He now owns a well improved farm with good buildings. David Johnson was born in Erie Co., N. Y., in 1818, and lived there till he came to Vernon county. His father was Kendall Johnson, a native of Massachusetts, and a descendent of the Puritan Pilgrims, of 1620, but he never lived in Vernon county. David Johnson married Nancy Quinn, a native of Ireland, of the county of Antrim, and eight children have been given them, all having been born in Erie Co., N. Y.—Mary, (who died at the age of fourteen years) John Q., Luther, Sarah, Charles A., a teacher by profession, who received an academic education at Elroy, Wis., and is now teaching in Chippewa Co., Wis., William V., Alice A., and Andrew L., who have all grown up to manhood and womanhood.

Hon. Roger Williams is proprietor of the restaurant at Hillsborough village. He was born at Oswego, Oswego Co., N. Y., Jan. 21, 1836, and is a son of Watson Williams. When fourteen years of age he shipped on board a merchantman, and took a two years cruise. He subsequently followed the lakes for some years, and for three years previous to the war, was engaged in the grocery trade. When the civil war commenced, he enlisted in the 110th regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served about eighteen months. He was discharged from the Marine hospital, at New Orleans, on account of disability. In August, 1865, he came to Hillsborough town and purchased a partially improved farm on section 29, where he settled the following October. He still owns this farm of 120 acres, seventy-five acres of which are under cultivation. In the spring of 1883, Mr. Williams removed into the village, and engaged in his present business. Mr. Williams was married, before the war, to Ellen M., daughter of Philand Madison, who settled in this town about 1863, but is now deceased. They have two children—Ella R. and George A. Mr. Williams has served as clerk of his school district; was chairman of the town board, for ten years, and in the fall of 1879, was elected to the State Legislature from this district.

Fred Schnell is the owner of the Hillsborough brewery. He was born in Germany, in 1849, and in 1866, came to the United States, and here learned the brewing trade. He came to Vernon county in 1866, and in 1873, bought of Carl Ludwig, his present brewery, and has since conducted the business. He has also en-

gaged in the manufacture of brick since 1877. The main building of the brewery is a stone basement with frame superstructure, about 35x40 feet in size. An addition is of frame 20x40 feet in size. The dimensions of the ice house are 24x32 feet. The brewery has a capacity of 1500 barrels annually, and in 1882, Mr. Schnell manufactured 1300 barrels.

Francis I. Pinch, physician and surgeon, located in the town of Hillsborough, in November, 1880. He was born at Springvale, Fond du Lac Co., Wis., in 1855, and in early life attended the common schools. He subsequently entered Ripon College, where he obtained a good classical education. He commenced the study of medicine at Ripon, in 1877, with Dr. F. Conger as his preceptor, and was graduated from the Rush Medical College, of Chicago, in the spring of 1880. Dr. Pinch is a young man of promise, and during his three years residence here has gained the esteem and respect of the community, and a comfortable practice, both of which are essential to success.

C. H. Morris, physician and surgeon, located in the village of Hillsborough, in January, 1883. Dr. Morris is a native of Rush Co., Ind., and commenced the study of medicine in 1875. He graduated after a two years course at the Medical College of Indiana, in 1880. After two years of practice in Indiana, he came to this State. Dr. Morris is a man of fine education and well versed in the profession which he has made a life work. He has made many friends in his new home, and is rapidly building up a large and substantial practice.

CHAPTER XLI.

THE TOWN OF JEFFERSON.

Jefferson is located in range 5, and embraces congressional town 13, and twelve sections of town 12, and therefore has an area of about 30,720 acres. Coon town is on its north border, Viroqua and Franklin towns on its east, Franklin and Sterling towns on its south, and Harmony and Sterling towns on its western border. One branch of the Bad Ax river takes its rise in the northern part of this town. There is perhaps more than the average amount of farm land in this town. The soil is of the very best in the county, and great care has been taken by the settlers to cultivate their lands in a proper manner and as a direct result, the town has more well tilled, highly improved farms than almost any other town within the county. There are many very large beautifully designed farm houses throughout this town, a large number of which are surrounded by large thrifty pine trees, the dark green foliage of which is a perpetual beauty, which is even increased in mid-winter, when the common forest trees are leafless.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The first settlement of this town was made by John Graham, in July, 1846, who, in company with his three sons, Thomas, Baker and Lamech settled on section 23, town 13, range 5. They moved from Mercer Co., Ill., with four yoke of oxen. They left Illinois in the month of April and came as far as Grant county, this State, where the family halted, while Mr. Graham and Jefferson De Freese came on to Vernon county in search of lands suitable to make homes. At that date the only settlers in Vernon county were Messrs. Rice and McCollough. They found lands adapted to their wants and soon returned to Grant county for the family, and were soon settled, after a fashion, in their new frontier home. Mr. Graham and his sons erected a rude log cabin and resided there "monarchs of all they surveyed," until that fall, when they were joined by William McMichael and family. Mrs. McMichael was a daughter of John Graham. Mr. Graham was born in Virginia, and with his parents moved to Ohio, where he learned the trade of millwright. He married a Miss Lyons, who died leaving four children, two sons and two daughters. He subsequently married Miss Reasoner and moved to Grant Co., Ind., where he built a mill and operated it till 1840, when he removed to Illinois. His wife died, leaving him nine children to care for. Six of these children were living in 1884—Baker, Lamech, Mary, Jefferson, Casandrew and Vallie. After coming to Vernon county, Mr. Graham married Mrs. Mary Crawford, whose maiden name was McMichael. By this union there were two children. Mr. Graham erected the first mill in Vernon county; he also laid out the village of Springville. He died in 1862.

The following are the names of those who settled in the town previous to 1850: John Graham and his sons Lamech, Thomas and Baker, who came in July, 1846; William McMichael, Isaac Spencer, Edmond Strong, Charles Waters, Isaac Waters, Henry Waters, William Spencer, Edward Cox, Daniel Cox,

Charles Cox, Samuel Brice, John Flick and sons, Clement Spaulding, Clayborn Cheatham, D. Cheatham, Dr. J. H. Sudduth and Nicholas Murphy.

The Waters family, who came in 1858 or 1859, were the children of Isaac and Abigal (Clark) Waters, natives of Connecticut, who reared eight children, four sons and one daughter of whom were pioneers of Vernon county. The first to come was Charles, who came on at the same time William Spencer did and finally married his daughter—Mary J. Charles followed farming and the nursury business in the town of Jefferson for many years, but finally moved to Grant county and later to Iowa.

Henry Waters came previous to 1850. He farmed and run a store at Springville for a time; but in 1884 was living at Fort Kearney, Neb. Isaac Waters, who was an unmarried man at the time of his coming to the county, soon after married Martha Price. He remained about ten years and moved to Minnesota.

Clark Waters was the last to come to the the county and settled on section 24. He resides there still.

Among the settlers of 1854 was Isaac Williams, who settled on land afterward owned by Col. May.

In 1855 William Smith became a resident of the town of Jefferson and in the fall of the same year became associated with Seth Hamilton in the blacksmithing business. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Smith went on the Mississippi river to work, spending two years there. He then moved to La Crosse, where he lived till 1860 and then returned to Springville and resumed work at his trade, continuing until 1875, since which time he has given his attention to farming. He came west in 1855 by railroad as far as Madison, this State, and soon after wended his way overland to Vernon county, where his brother, I. W. Smith, had previously located. In 1859 he married Louise Rowe, who bore him eight children, seven of whom are living—Sarah, Clarence, Willie, James, George, Earl and Bessie.

Among other settlers of an early date was Nathan J. Slack, who settled on section 30, town 12, range 5, in 1858. He first located at Liberty Pole in 1856. In 1884 he was counted among the wealthiest farmers of the town, owning 440 acres of well improved farm lands in this town and 240 acres on the Bad Ax. His wife was Adeline Rogers, daughter of Hiram Rogers. She was born in New York, in 1836. They have two children—Carrie and Charles.

John Flick and family, who were quite early settlers, lived near where Lamech Graham afterward lived. They remained where they first settled till the time of his death, Christmas day, 1865. His remains lie buried on the hill just north of the Eureka Mills. Mr. Flick followed farming and stone quarrying; also burned lime. In 1884 the family were scattered, some in one State, some in another. The widow was then living in Minnesota.

FIRST THINGS.

The first occurrences in the settlement of a country are ever of interest to the reader of local history; and below is a record of many of the first events which transpired in the town of Jefferson:

The first settler was John Graham, who came in 1846.

The first marriage was Solomon Flick and Mary Graham, which took place in 1850 or 1851.

The first death in the town, also in the county, was William Lewis McMichael, son of William and Eleanor McMichael. This occurred in 1846. His remains were first buried east of Viroqua, but later were removed to Springville cemetery.

The next death was Thomas, son of John Graham, who died in the winter of 1847–8, and was the first body interred in the Springville cemetery.

The first blacksmith shop was operated as early as 1848.

William Smith burned the first stone coal used in the town, in 1860. It was purchased in Milwaukee and used in his blacksmith shop. Before this date charcoal had been exclusively used for iron work.

The first school was taught by Henry Waters in 1849.

The first school house was built in 1850, and was located just north of Springville.

ORGANIC.

This town was organized in 1855, and was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson. The early records are very incomplete, and the only facts relating to its early history is that the first supervisors were: Isaac Spencer, Charles Waters and James Marker; and N. W. Saxton, town clerk.

In 1856 the supervisors were: J. R. Savage, James Marker and William Evans; Julius Rowell, town clerk.

In 1883 the town officers were: M. Saxon, chairman; E. P. Thompson and M. Hovelind, supervisors; Joseph McLeese, clerk; Michael Rentz, treasurer; I W. Thorp and E. Tigue, justices of the peace; Isaac Groves, assessor.

POSTOFFICES.

In 1884 the town of Jefferson had two postoffices within its borders. The first postoffice established in the town was at Springville, in 1849. The mail was received from Prairie du Chien twice a week. Edmond Strang was the first postmaster. Among the postmasters have been: James Savage and P. Buffler. The latter was serving in 1883.

The first postmaster of Esofea postoffice was Edwin Larson. This office continued only a few years. In 1870 it was again established and M. Rentz made postmaster. He in time was succeeded by A. K. Strand, and he by Nels Johnson, who was followed by Christian Schriven.

The first goods sold at or near this postoffice were by Edwin Larson, who, after two years, was followed by A. K. Strand, who engaged in trade about 1873, and continued till 1880, when he was succeeded by Christian Schriven. In 1884 the place had a store, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop and a tannery.

EDUCATIONAL.

Educational matters in the town of Jefferson have ever been watched and cared for, even from the early pioneer days, with the greatest prudence and wisdom. None but the best teachers have been engaged to teach the schools. In 1884 the town contained six districts proper and four joint districts, each of which were provided with a fair school building.

Joint school district No. 1 owns a frame school building on section 23, erected about twenty-five years ago.

District No. 2 has a frame house on section 15, which is about twenty years old.

District No. 3 possesses a frame building on section 3, built about 1868.

Joint district No. 5 owns a frame building on section 1.

Joint district No. 6 owns a very old frame house on section 6.

District No. 7 erected a frame house on section 34, about 1868.

District No. 8 erected a substantial frame structure on section 16 in 1878.

District No. 9 possesses a good frame building on section 31, put up about 1875.

Joint district No. 10 erected in the autumn of 1883 a neat frame school house on section 8, of town 12 north, of range 5 west.

District No. 14 owns a very old frame structure on section 36.

All of the school buildings are in town 13 north, of range 5 west, with the exception of joint district No. 10.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The first heralds of the Cross in this vicinity were from the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The first services were held in 1850, by Rev. Perdun, at the house of Isaac Spencer.

The United Brethren organized a society in 1859, at which date Rev. Mr. Smith officiated as preacher. Among the first member were: L. J. Wood and wife, J. Brown and wife, Sam-

Wm Frazier

Pluma Fragier

uel Powell and wife, and N. A. Sackett and wife. In 1883, owing to various causes, the society was about discontinued.

The Advent Christian Church was organized in the summer of 1869. Services were held at the Springville school house, where Rev. Higgins preached at intervals, until 1879, when Rev. George Turner came to Springville and organized a Church consisting of the following members: Catharine Hamilton, Daniel Favors, Aurilla Morse, William Morse, A. Van Dyke, Rebecca Van Dyke, Celestia Chandler, Cassie Wills, James Brooks and Jennie Savage. Rev. Turner was succeeded by Peter W. Hough during whose stay in 1871, the society erected their church edifice, which cost $1200. Following Rev. Peter W. Hough, came Rev. Job Brown, who was followed by Charles A. Slocum, who served the Church till 1883, at which time they had a membership of about forty. They have always supported a live Sunday school, which has been regularly and largely attended.

Among the earliest Congregationalist ministers of Vernon county was Rev. L. L. Ratcliff, who preached at various places throughout the county in 1854.

MILLS.

The first mill built in the town was erected in 1848, by John Graham. This mill was located on section 23, and was operated by water power from Bad Ax river. It was 24x30 feet square and three stories high; it was provided with two run of buhrs. It was run by Mr. Graham and his sons, for six or seven years, when they took it down and built a new one about a hundred yards down the stream. This mill was built by John Graham and his son Lameh, and was a very good mill. It was 40x40 feet square, three stories in height, and contained three run of stone.

Lambert Graham run this mill till 1868, when he sold to Delevan Kief. It was destroyed by fire, Dec. 31, 1868.

In 1869 the Eureka Mills at Springville, were built by Alfred Glassborn and Lamech Graham, and was operated by them till 1878, when John S. Dixson was made a member of the company. This mill was 40x40 feet, built of stone and cost $9,000. In 1881 this mill was destroyed by fire, when it was rebuilt, this time being run by steam power.

Ira Wissell erected a grist mill in 1855, on the southwest quarter of section 9, town 12, range 5. He soon sold out; but the mill was run by other parties for about ten years, when the machinery was removed elsewhere.

Another saw mill was put in operation at a very early day, probably about 1852, by Daniel Cox. It was situated on section 4, town 13, range 5, and was run for two years until Mr. Cox died of the small pox. His widow sold the mill in 1854, to N. W. Saxton, who operated it for several years, sold to Alexander McConnell, after which it passed through several men's hands, and at last was washed down stream.

A steam saw mill was erected in 1865 by W. H. Officer, at Springville, and operated at that point for two years, when he sold to parties up in the pineries.

VILLAGE OF SPRINGVILLE.

This village is situated on section 23, town 13, range 5, on a branch of the Bad Ax river. Some time before 1850, Dr. J. H. Sudduth, a practicing physician, and Nicholas Murphy his son-in-law, who was a carpenter by trade, located where this place now stands. The first goods sold at this point were handled by a Mr. Wright. N. D. Legard, of Sparta, and A. C. Delap, also were among the early dealers.

The first regular store was operated by James R. Savage, who continued several years.

Berry & Graham were also early dealers.

Bartolf & Conant engaged in trade in 1858. Shortly after Mr. Conant withdrew and Mr. Bartolf continued alone until October, 1864, when he sold to Philip Bouffleur, who was still in trade in 1884, at which date his sales were about $30,000 annually. In September, 1883, he sold a half interest in his business to H.

Amunson, when the firm name was changed to H. Amunson & Co.

L. N. Shaw engaged in the grocery trade in 1880.

The Springville hotel was built by Philip Bouffleur, in 1860. He sold to Thomas Buchannan and he to L. G. P. Adams, in 1866. In 1877 he sold to E. N. Shaw, who was its proprietor in 1884.

In 1883 the business of the place was represented as follows :

Lewis Shaw, groceries, also the proprietor of the Springville House; H. Amunson & Co., general dealers; Isaac Hamilton, harness maker; Trumin Kendall and H. W. Jackson, blacksmiths.

VARIOUS MANUFACTORIES.

In 1883 the town of Jefferson supported the following branches of manufacturing industry: tannery; broom factory; harness and shoe shops; furniture factory and an extensive sorghum mill. The tannery was erected in 187?, by Michael Rentz, at Esofea, and has always done a large business in the production of upper leather, lining, mitten leather, etc.

A broom factory was put in operation by J. M. Goldrick, who had the great misfortune of losing his eyesight in 1862, and as he did not recover, he was sent to the Blind Institute at Janesville, where in the course of five weeks he learned to make brooms, and since that time has done a good business in that line.

In 1854 E. C. Officer commenced the manufacture of furniture at Springville, which he followed about three years. This was the only attempt ever made in this line of business.

Among the earliest shoemakers of the town were Philip Bouffleur and Enoch Brooks.

The first one to engage in the harness business was William Bouffleur, who opened a shop in 1875, at first using the rear of his father's store for a shop. In the spring of 1880, he erected a shop and continued in business till 1883, when he sold to Isaac Hamilton, who learned his trade of Mr. Bouffleur. This is the only harness shop in the town of Jefferson.

In 1857 I. F. Thorp and Archibald Morrison engaged in the manufacture of fanning mills, in which they continued but a part of the year. John M. Goldrick had been in the same business in the town as early as 1855.

This town supports a very important branch of farm industry in the way of a Sugar Cane manufactory, which was commenced in 1863. In 1865 William Frazier began to grow cane on an extensive plan and continued the same till 1873, making from 800 to 1,000 gallons annually, by the use of a two horse power mill. In 1880 he again resumed the business, and in 1883, commenced to make sugar. He was the third man in Wisconsin to engage in sugar making from sorghum. The first was at the State University at Madison, and the next, Mr. Decker, at Fond du Lac, who made about 4,000 pounds in the fall of 1882. In June, 1882, the agricultural department at Washington, D. C., issued a circular stating that Congress had appropriated a certain amount of money to be used in experimenting in the manufactory of sugar from cane grown in the northern States. Of this amount the department proposed to divide $12,000 into ten equal shares, to be given to the ten men who returned the best report on the subject of growing sugar cane and making sugar therefrom. In December, 1882, William Frazier sent his report in to the commissioner of agriculture at Washington, and was soon informed that he had been awarded one share, $1,200, and the same was received by him in May, 1883. The following is an extract from his prize report :

DEAR SIR :—I send you the following report. I planted twenty acres to Amber Cane; yes, I planted it all three times! after telling everybody and their boys how to plant cane, failed to get a stand myself. Planted five acres on the 27th of April; fifteen on the 12th and 13th of May, used corn planters; planted very shallow, not to exceed one-half an inch in depth;

my ground was in splendid condition (finely pulverized and made smooth with a "bunter"), planted in check rows three feet three and one-half inches each way; deposited seed in south-east corner of square, then rolled the ground. But the expected spring rains failed to come. We did not have enough rain in this locality from the time we commenced to plow in the spring until the 24th day of June, to wet the plowed ground one inch deep; but we had some little showers, just enough to start some of the plants, only to wither and dry for want of moisture. Planted again the last of May and forepart of June, which came better, but a little wire-worm about one-half an inch long, and the white grub played sad havoc with the young plants. Planted again about the middle of June. After all my pains failed to get half a stand on nineteen acres of the twenty acres planted.

Process of manufacturing: I have ten feet fall from mill to boiling house; four feet from level of evaporator to floor of syrup house. Run my juice through a two-inch pipe, sixty-six feet from mill to custom tanks; have two of them. Capacity 180 and 200 gallons respectively.

These tanks are made of galvanized iron and wood, and hold just ten gallons to one inch in depth. Here the juice is allowed to settle while the tank is being filled; here the juice is measured, tested and drawn through a swing pipe and run into one of the two lime tanks; put enough of the milk of good fresh lime so the juice will turn blue litmus paper purple. When the lime is put in mix thoroughly. It will be seen that I lime my juice cold.

Some successful manufacturers do their first boiling in batches; this I believe to be unnecessary and inconvenient. I use a pan (for defecating) seventeen feet long, forty-four inches wide, with three apartments; the one next to smoke stack is five feet long, the next one four feet, the balance of pan is finished like the cook evaporator, channels sixteen inches wide. I run the limed juice into the apartment next to chimney. This is made separate from balance of pan and placed higher; here the juice heats gradually, but never boils. We skim this about once in five or six hours; it passes from this to the second apartment, where it is raised nearly to the boiling point, but not allowed to boil; here it is skimmed every two or three hours; the juice is passed through a gate from this to the third division, almost as clear as water, where it is boiled as rapidly as possible until the green scum is all off, when it is drawn by a continuous flow into tanks. I use two of them, with a capacity of 100 gallons each, where it is allowed to settle an hour or more from the time it begins to fill until it is empty. Here we obtain a feccula, fine and very tart. These settlings will ferment in a very short time. From these tanks the defecated juice is drawn through swing pipes into the Madison pan (cook evaporator fifteen feet long), where it is kept boiling rapidly until finished. We run the finished syrup by a continuous flow through a wooden trough, covered with fine wire screen, thirty-two feet to cooler, from one cooler to another, when it is usually cooled to about 140 deg., Fahrenheit. This second cooler is set on truck, and when filled is drawn by a windlass to top of syrup tank, which has a capacity of 2,360 gallons. A little porus alum water should be used in the semi syrup; when one of the tanks is about three-quarters full put in one pint of the alum water. Mix well.

To prepare the alum water, dissolve $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of porus alum in ten gallons of water.

The settling tanks should be rinsed two or three times a day. Each tank should have a 3-inch hole in the bottom to expedite the cleansing.

On stopping for the day (we did not run much at night), I always had the mill and all tanks that were emptied washed with milk of lime, or rinsed with water and then white-washed.

The sooner and more rapidly the juice and semi-syrup, after being settled, can be boiled the better. Too much skimming is bad. Any attempt to remove the scum before it has become somewhat firm—has some body to it—will result in mixing it with the juice, and thus materially injuring the quality of the syrup. I believe in thoroughly skimming but not a continuous dipping by any means. I use wood for fuel; have it split fine for the evaporator and then have a trusty boy whose business is to keep a *steady* hot fire and skim front end of pan. I pay a man extra wages to superintend evaporator and keep running from the time it is started in the morning until we wish to stop at night; he did not scorch or burn a gallon in making almost 4,000 gallons. *

* * * * * * * * *

Yours Truly,

WM. FRAZIER.

The money which Mr. Frazier received from this essay on "Sugar cane in the North," added to his enthusiasm so that the following year he planted twenty-five acres, and went to the expense of putting in new machinery with which to make sugar.

Henry Morgan of Wheatland town is perhaps the next largest producer of sorghum, in Vernon county.

CYCLONE.

June 23, 1875, a small cyclone struck the residence of William Frazier on section 5, of town 13, range 5, and completely demolished it. At the time, there were eleven persons in the house—Mr. and Mrs. Frazier, and their six children, his sister-in-law and child, and a hired girl. None were killed, but several were seriously injured. The floor of the house was carried about a mile, and trees were hurled a distance of three miles and forced bodily into the earth. No further damage was done till the storm struck Hazens Corners now known as Cashton.

FISH PONDS.

Near Esofea there are a series of fish ponds constructed by Michael Rentz in 1881, for the purpose of raising trout. Water is supplied from a large stream which gushes out of the earth at that point. Mr. Rentz was, in 1883, producing some very fine fish.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884 there were two regular cemeteries within the borders of this town. The oldest of these is the one situated near the village of Springville. The other, which is used by the Norwegians, is located on the northwest quarter of section 14, town 13, range 5.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Nearly forty years have elapsed since John Graham and his three sons first made a settlement on the virgin soil of what is now Jefferson town. The following personal histories represent about forty of the pioneer settlers and prominent citizens of to-day; those who have been witnesses and participators of the steady toil and innumerable privations attendant on the clearing and settlement of this portion of Vernon county.

Lameh Graham, the oldest settler in Vernon county residing there in 1884, was born in Ohio April 17, 1828, came to this county in 1846, in company with Nelson De Frees, and has since been a resident of Springville, Vernon county. His principal business has been milling, and is at present one of the partners of the Eureka Mill. Mr. Graham has made a large amount of money, but has met with heavy losses by fire and otherwise. He was married in 1851 to Mary Kelsey. She died, leaving two children, one of which is now living—Columbus. In 1862 he married Euphanie Gambois, and by this union has had ten children, eight of whom are now living—Lameh, William, Irwin M., John, Alfred B., Amada, Anna M. and Mary M.

Alfred Glassborn is a native of Virginia, born in the year 1815. When one year old he removed with his parents to Ohio. Here he resided until 1839, being raised to farm life. He then went to Lee Co., Iowa, and in 1844 came to Wisconsin, working for two years in the lead mines. In the fall of 1846 he removed farther

north, and has since resided within the limits of what is now known as Vernon county, with the exception of three years spent in California. Until 1868 he gave his attention to farming. In 1869 he became associated, as partner, with Lameh Graham, in the milling business, erected the Eureka Mill, at Springville, and has since owned an interest in the same. Mr. Glassborn never married.

Samuel Brice is numbered among the pioneers of Vernon county, having settled here prior to 1850. He pre-empted land on section 27, town 13, range 5, on which he resided until 1883, when he removed to Brown Co., Dak. Mr. Brice was born in 1820, in Kentucky, removing with his parents to Missouri, where he married Mrs. Mary Spradling, *nee* Ingram. She had two children by her former marriage, one of whom is now living—Anna, wife of J. Zuingliens May. Mr. and Mrs. Brice have but one child—John.

John Brice, son of Samuel and Mary Brice, was born in Jefferson, Vernon county, Aug. 5, 1855, now residing on the homestead. He was married in 1876 to Oliva Parsons, daughter of Israel Parsons. They have four children—Amy, Maud, Jessie and Effie. Ann M. (Spradling) May, the daughter born to Mrs. Samuel Brice, was born in Lincoln Co., Mo., in 1850. In 1853 she was taken by her parents to Vernon Co., Wis., and Dec. 29, 1868, married Zuingliens S. May. They have six children, five of whom are natives of Vernon county—Belle, Samuel, Georgia, Idumea and Edna. In 1882 Mr. May removed to Brown Co., Dak., where a little daughter, named Bertha, was born to them.

S. Hoverson is numbered among the settlers of 1852, as on the 27th of August, that year, his parents came to Vernon county, soon purchasing land on section 12, town 13, range 5, and as soon as suitable buildings could be erected made this their home. Here his father died in September, 1881; his mother makes her home with him. Mr. Hoverson was born in Norway, May 10, 1835. He emigrated with his parents to America in 1852, and has since, as before stated, been a resident of Jefferson town .He is a republican in politics, and for nine years has been a member of the town board. In religion he is a Lutheran.

Among the early settlers of Vernon county is found Norris W. Saxton, who, with his wife and three children settled near Liberty Pole in 1852. In 1853 he removed to Springville, engaging in farming, and also for some time in running a saw mill. When the civil war broke out he responded to the call of his country by enlisting in company C, 18th Wisconsin Volunteers, and was killed at the battle of Shiloh in April, 1862. Mr. Saxton was born in New York State in 1813, and while a resident there married Maria L. Belknap. He then emigrated to Illinois, going from there to Wisconsin. Mrs. Saxton died in 1878. She had five children—A. B., Jennie E., deceased, N. W., who enlisted in company F., 37th Wisconsin Volunteers, dying while in service; Anna L. and Sylvester S.

A. B. Saxton, son of Norris W. Saxton, was born in Pike Co., Ill., April 16, 1843. He came with his parents to this county, and has since been engaged in farming. He was married to Augusta C. Favor, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Favor, and now resides on section 5, town 13, range 5, owning 120 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Saxton have had six children, three of whom are living—Clement S., Emma L. and Norton F. Mr. Saxton is a National greenbacker. In religion he is a Methodist Episcopal.

Martin F. Allen was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., Jan. 24, 1820. His early life was spent working in saw mills and grist mills, three years of which time was spent in Canada. He came to Vernon county in October, 1853, purchasing the southwest quarter of section 28, town 13, range 5. He then returned to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and the following spring brought his family to their new home, the journey being made by way of the great lakes, from

Ogdensburg, N. Y., to Chicago, Ill., and thence by team to Wisconsin. In 1858 Mr. Allen traded his property for a saw mill at Newton, removed thither in 1860, erected a new saw mill, and four years later built a grist mill on the place. He resided in Newton about seventeen years, when he sold his mills, returned to Jefferson, and now resides on section 32. His farm consists of 240 acres. He was married in 1841 to Anna Landon, of Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. She died in July, 1842, leaving one son, who has since died. In 1849 he married Betsy C. Ellis, and by this union had eight children—Charles, the eldest, entered the United States service in 1864, and now fills a soldier's grave; Emery E., Julia, wife of Joseph Baker; Elisha, James M., George W., Hattie and Henry. He is a strict republican, and adheres closely to temperance.

William A. Herron came to Vernon county in April, 1853, settling on the northeast quarter of section 14, town 13, range 5, where he now owns 240 acres. He has given his principal attention to farming, although for a few years he was engaged in general merchandise business, at Springville, in partnership with George E. Morse. In 1881 he went to Dakota, taking a homestead and tree claim, and has spent much of his time since in improving the same. Mr. Herron was born June 22, 1823, in Muskingum Co., Ohio. In 1848 he married Mary McLees, and in 1853, as before stated, came to Wisconsin, the journey from Ohio being made on steamboat, by way of St. Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Herron have nine children—Hannah J., now Mrs. Matthew Gray, Sarah E., now Mrs. George E. Morse, Joseph M., Mary M., now Mrs. H. L. Rayner, Martha W., now Mrs. Frank Warner, Rachel, now Mrs. Arthur Amsden; Charles T., George W., and Kate. He is a republican, and a member of the Congregational Church.

Seth Hamilton settled at Springville, Jefferson town, in 1854, engaging in the blacksmith business. After continuing this business for two years he engaged in carpenter work. In 1859 he went to Pikes Peak, but returned in 1862 to Springville, and has since been engaged in farming. He was born in Ohio, Jan. 14, 1833, and resided in his native State until reaching maturity. He was married in 1855, to Catherine Ann Van Dyke, daughter of Abraham Van Dyke. She removing with her father from the State of Ohio in 1854. Their children numbered six, in all, two boys and four girls. Three of them are dead and three living—Comentna Alice, the oldest, was born July 7, 1856, died July 4, 1862; Loami Wilber was born April 23, 1863, died Jan. 24, 1865; Seth Lorin was born Jan. 23, 1875, died Nov. 18, 1878. The living ones are—Melzana Loretta, Mattie Leona, Mary Lucy. Mr. Hamilton's politics, if any, are democratic, in faith he is an Advent believer.

George Williamson has been a resident of Vernon county since 1865. He worked at the cooper trade for three years, at Chaseburg, the remainder of the time being engaged in farming. He was born Jan. 29, 1843, in Muskingum Co., Ohio. He learned his trade in his native State, and followed it there until 1861. He then enlisted in company A, 122d Ohio Infantry, serving three years, and participating in several hard fought battles and numerous skirmishes. He was wounded at the battle of Cold Harbor, which disabled him for three months. July 4, 1868, he married Hettie, daughter of James Maxwell. They have three children—Blanche, Lloyd and Irwin. He is a republican, and a member of the G. A. R.

James Maxwell came to Vernon county in 1854, in the fall of the same year, purchasing fifty acres of land on section 15, town 13, range 5, where he was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred Feb. 1, 1875. He was born Nov. 10, 1808, in Westmoreland Co., Penn., and removed with his parents to Ohio, where he was married, Dec. 22, 1831, to Sarah Joseph, born in Virginia, Sept. 25, 1808. They had nine children, eight daughters and one son—the latter deceased. The children living are—Dy-

antha Irene, wife of John Goldrick; Margaret, wife of Thomas Harper; Mary, wife of Salem James; Rachel, wife of Isaac Groves; Nancy, wife of James Dixon; Neoma, wife of Charles Markle; Celestia, wife of David Stevenson; and Hetty, wife of George Williamson. Mrs. Maxwell still resides on the homestead, which contains 140 acres of land.

E. C. Officer settled at Springville, Vernon county, in 1854, working at his trade, cabinet maker, for about three years. In 1857 he married Mary Ann Spencer, daughter of Isaac and Mary Ann(McConnell) Spencer,since which time he has given his attention to farming. He now owns 310 acres of land, twenty-one lots, and the largest springs in the county, from which the village of Springville derived its name, are located on his land, only a few rods from his residence. Mr. Officer was born Feb. 8, 1827, in Muskingum Co., Ohio, being a son of James and Sarah (Crumbaker) Officer. He learned his trade and worked at it in his native State until coming to Vernon county. Mr. and Mrs. Officer have had eight children, six of whom are living—James, Irvine, Flora M., Elmer H., Wyman L. and Lloyd Spencer.

Samuel Davis was born in Pennsylvania in 1801, learned the cooper trade, and removed to Ohio, residing there until 1855, when he came to Jefferson town Vernon Co., Wis. He died in September, 1872. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Yours, by whom he had ten children, nine of whom are living. His second wife was Elizabeth G. Gladden. They had seven children, four of whom are living—Nancy, William I., Hulda E. and Miles G. Mrs. Davis is now the wife of Thomas White.

Miles G. Davis was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, April 3, 1854. He received a common school education. In March, 1877, he married Mary E. Thompson, daughter of David B. Thompson. In November, 1878, he moved to Monroe county, where he resided until the fall of 1882. He then returned to Vernon county, now residing on the homestead. His children are—Winfred C., Lloyd E. and Harvey E. He is a republican and a member of the A. O. U. W. Mr. Davis is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

William Frazier was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, Oct. 6, 1833. He assisted his father on the farm and received a good common school education. In 1855 he married Plume Powell, also a native of the Buckeye State. They came to Wisconsin soon after marriage, and have since resided in Jefferson town, Vernon county. Mr. Frazier has had many sad experiences. In February, 1875, his residence, one of the best in the town, was destroyed by fire. He at once rebuilt, but no sooner was his new residence built than it was destroyed by a cyclone, which occurred June 23, 1875, and of which mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. Frazier is the largest grower of sugar cane in Vernon county, and has the honor of being the third man in the State of Wisconsin to manufacture sugar therefrom. Mr. Frazier was formerly a republican, but is now somewhat independent, giving little attention to politics. He has frequently been chosen to fill offices of public trust and honor, having served as town-superintendent of schools, town assessor and collector, as chairman of the county board of supervisors one term, and of the town-board several terms. He also, in 1874, represented his district in the General Assembly. In 1883 Mr. Frazier received from the agricultural department at Washington, $1,200 to be used by him in experimenting in the manufacture of sugar. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier have had eleven children, ten of whom are now living—Anna L., now Mrs. C. L. Wood; Samuel L., cashier of the Wadena County Bank, Verndale, Minn.; William S., book-keeper in La Crosse, Wis.; Luella J., Dora H., Charles R., Mary B., Raymond R., Minta M. and Frank E.

John Hayes came to Vernon county in 1855 and on the 26th of May settled on section 27, town 13, range 5, where he purchased land

of Simon Crawford. He still resides on this place, now owning 220 acres. For the past ten years he has been a dealer in live stock. Mr. Hayes was born in Ohio, Oct. 4, 1826. He worked on a farm in his younger days, and received a common school education. In 1845 he married Mariam Williams. In 1854 he sold his property in Ohio, and in the following spring started westward, and became a resident of Vernon county. Mrs. Hayes died Jan. 27, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes had five children—Sarah A., (deceased), Mary J., Mrs. John McKitrick; Rachel M., Mrs. W. J. May; Hester, Mrs. Joseph Forsyth, and John Jr. Mr. Hayes has been successful in life, and now has a neat frame residence. He votes the republican ticket, although he takes but little interest in politics.

Thomas James, one of the pioneers of 1855, settled on section 10, town 13 north, range 5 west, where he still resides, now owning 195 acres. He was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, July 5, 1812. He was raised on a farm; but at the age of eighteen years commenced to learn the carpenter trade, working at the same for several years. In 1835 he built a saw-mill and operated it until 1848, when he resumed farming. He was married in 1835, to Frances Graham, a native of Virginia, born Jan. 22, 1817, and removed with her parents while quite young to Muskingum Co., Ohio, where she was married. They lived together until 1872, when May 23 she died, having borne thirteen children—Salem, Troylus, Reuben, Eben, Maria, Charles, Edwin, Lucy, George, Theodore, John, Alta and Thomas. Ten are still living. Reuben died Aug. 10, 1840; Theodore, Feb. 1, 1868, and John, Dec. 14, 1878. Mr. James united with the Baptist Church in April, 1830; his wife in 1832. In politics he was an "old line whig," then a staunch republican. In June, 1875, he was married the second time, to Mrs. Mary Miller, widow of James Miller. She was born July 20, 1828, in Muskingum Co., Ohio; was married May 20, 1847, and removed with her husband, in 1854, to Vernon Co., Wis.; settled near Viroqua, and in 1860, settled on a homestead in the town of Stark, on sections 4 and 5, town 13 north, of range 2 west. In August, 1862, her husband enlisted for the war in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and died at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 11, 1863, at the age of thirty-seven years. She had four children—Harvey, Mansfield L., Sarah E. and Asbury F., two of whom are dead. Sarah E. died May 17, 1874, and Mansfield L. died June 18, 1882. Both wife and husband were members of the Methodist Church. He was republican in politics.

William A. Morse was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., Feb. 23, 1817. His early life was spent on a farm, while he received a good commercial education, and for many years was engaged in book-keeping. While serving in that capacity in Lockport, he made the acquaintance of Orrilla N. Hunter, to whom he was married in 1840. In 1855 he came to Wisconsin, engaging in mercantile business at Springville, Vernon county, which he continued the greater portion of the time until his death, which occurred in 1874. Mr. Morse was the first depot agent at Lockport, on the New York Central Railroad, and faithfully served the company a number of years in that capacity. Mrs. Morse still resides with her only child—George E. Mr. Morse possessed excellent business qualifications, and was well known in the county. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and ranked very high. He was a Royal Arch Mason, was connected with the Commandery, and was a Knight Templar. He assisted in organizing the Masonic lodge at Viroqua. He voted the republican ticket, but never aspired to office. Religiously, he was an Adventist—one of the first in the county. George E., only son of William A. Morse, was born in Lockport, N. Y., June 11, 1841, coming with his parents to Wisconsin. He received a good common school education, and was raised to a mercantile life, assisting his father in the store. He re-

mained at home until 1871, at which time he was married to Sarah E. Herron, daughter of William A. Herron. They have had five children, two of whom are living—Mary E. and Margaret E. Mr. Morse has been principally engaged in farming, being for a time, however, engaged in mercantile business. In politics he is a republican, and is also a member of the I. O. O. F.

Clark Waters was born Feb. 8, 1805, in the State of New York. He removed with his parents to Illinois, from whence he came to Wisconsin, becoming one of the pioneers of Vernon county. He now resides on section 25, Jefferson town. Mr. Waters has been married three times. His first wife was Orrilla Clark, by whom he had eleven children, seven living at the time of her death. His second wife was Julia Mack, from whom he was divorced soon after marriage. His present wife was Mrs. Louisa Derr, widowed wife of Charles Derr, who was killed while serving his country in the civil war. Five children were born to them, three daughters and two sons—the former married, and the latter still single. Mr. and Mrs. Waters were married in 1867.

W. S. Waters, son of Clark and Orrilla Waters, removed with his parents to Vernon county. In 1862 he enlisted in company A, 25th Wisconsin Volunteers, serving three years. Mr. Waters married Joam Older. They have seven children — William, Arbelle, Earnest, Hattie, James, Burton and Lester.

Adam Doerr arrived at Springville, April 11, 1856, and at once entered the employ of the Grahams, who were then repairing their mill, and when it was completed, Mr. Doerr was placed in charge and held the position for three years. On account of being troubled with rheumatism, he was compelled to give up steady work in the mill, but he still assists about the mill occasionally. When Mr. Doerr first entered the mill he was unable to speak the English language, but as he was well educated in German, he kept the books at the mill, and was soon familiar with our native tongue. He purchased his present farm in 1859, and now has a comfortable home. When he bought his land there was but little timber in the vicinity, as fires swept across the country annually. But now, where the soil has not been put under cultivation, it is covered with a thick forest. Mr. Doerr was born in the Grand Duchy of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, Jan. 1, 1820. He learned the milling business, and subsequently the tailor's trade. In 1851 he emigrated to the United States, and first stopped in Butler Co., Penn., where, in 1853, he married Susanna Keonig. They have three children — Susan, Anna and John.

Jonathan Favor was born in Grafton Co., N. H., May 6, 1799. In 1821 he was united in marriage with Mary Pingry, born in the same county, Aug. 28, 1802. In 1833 they moved to Erie Co., N. Y., seven years later to McHenry Co., Ill., and in 1854 came to Wisconsin, settling on section 10, town 13, range 5. Here Mr. Favor was engaged in farming until his death, Feb. 21, 1875. Mrs. Favor still resides on the homestead, and is in good health for one of her age. Mr. and Mrs. Favor had twelve children, ten of whom are living—Isaac S., Elizabeth, now Mrs. Ira Olds; Feletus, Jane, now Mrs. Theodore Wilson; Minerva, widow of Wallace W. DeFrees; Daniel W., Ambrosia, nowMrs. John Spencer; Augusta, now Mrs. A. B. Soxten; Electa, now Mrs. Joel Herron, and Jerome. Mr. Favor was a loving husband, kind father, and good neighbor. He always lived a Christian life, and during his latter years was connected with the Advent Christian Church.

Jerome Favor was born in McHenry Co., Ill., June 26, 1846. He came with his parents to Wisconsin, now owning and residing on the homestead, which contains 160 acres of land. In 1880 he erected a large frame house at a cost of $2,400, but it was no sooner completed than it was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Favor was compelled to rebuild. Feb. 1, 1869, he

married Lucy James, daughter of Thomas James. They have two children—Fannie and Arie. Mr. Favor is a republican. In religion he is an Advent Christian.

I. M. Groves became a resident of Vernon county in the fall of 1856, residing in Liberty town until 1869, since which time he has lived in Jefferson town. He was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Sept. 20, 1839, where he resided until coming to Wisconsin. He enlisted Sept. 6, 1861, in company F, 8th Wisconsin Volunteers, serving until Sept. 16, 1864. He participated in the battles of Frederickstown, Mo.; siege of New Madrid, Island No. 10 and siege of Corinth, when he was taken sick, remaining in the hospital eleven months. He was also on the Red river expedition. In 1865 he married Rachel Maxwell, daughter of James Maxwell. They had six children, five of whom are living —James F., Ottosia A., Le Roy M., Mary E. and Hattie I. He is a greenbacker in politics, but was formerly a republican. His religious connections are with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Groves is a member of the G. A. R.

R. S. Nixon settled on section 34, town 13, range 5, Vernon Co., Wis., and here he still resides. He has given his attention to farming and now owns 190 acres of land. Mr. Nixon was born Nov. 10, 1820, in Morgan Co., Ohio. His father, Hugh Nixon, was a native of Ireland, and his mother, Rachel (Wood) Nixon, was born in New Jersey. R. S. Nixon received a common school education. In 1843 he was married to Jane Rees, born in Muskingum Co., Ohio. In 1856 they came to Wisconsin. Mrs. Nixon died in March, 1881, leaving six children—Mary J., Amos M., Charles H., Emma, Eva and Samuel. He is a republican and a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. M. Nixon, son of R. S. and Jane (Rees) Nixon, was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, Nov. 3, 1850. He came with his parents to Wisconsin and has since been a resident of Vernon county. He learned the blacksmith trade and for some time had a shop at Viroqua. He settled on his present farm in 1875 and in March of the same year married Sarah Emma McKitrick. They have four children—Charles A., Roy, Claude and Howard W. In politics Mr. Nixon is republican.

L. G. P. Adams was born in Quincy, Mass., Oct. 24, 1815. He learned the shoemaker's trade and while pursuing the same made boots for Gen. B. F. Butler and Dr. Ayers. He was married Dec. 31, 1839, at Lowell, Mass., to Eliza S. Mallon. Ten years later, he removed to New Hampshire from whence, in 1857, he he came to Wisconsin and has since been a resident of Vernon county. He was engaged in farming at Viroqua until 1866, when he removed to Springville, engaging in hotel business. He was proprietor of the Springville House until 1877, when he sold to L. N. Shaw. Mr. Adams now leads a retired life. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have had two children, one now living—Anna E., wife of Samuel Older, Springville, Wis.

Philip Bouffleur is a native of Prussia, born Sept. 7, 1829. His father, Peter Bouffleur, emigrated to the United States in 1853 and died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854. His mother, Catharine Bouffleur, emigrated to the United States in 1860 and has since been a resident of Vernon county. Philip learned the shoemaker's trade in his native country. From 1849 to 1851 he served in the 30th Infantry Division of the Prussian Army. In 1854 he came to America, first stopping at Butler, Butler Co., Penn. On Nov. 27, 1855, he was united in marriage with Mary Reinlinder. In 1857 he came to Wisconsin, settling in Springville and following his trade until 1864, when he succeeded Mr. Bartolf in the general mercantile business and by his pleasing manners and honest dealings so gained the confidence of the people that his trade was on a continual increase until in 1882 his sales amounted to $30,000. Mr. Bouffleur is a republican in politics. He served as postmaster at Springville from 1864 to

1883. He is a man of excellent business qualifications and highly esteemed by his fellow men. Mr. Bouffleur is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the A. O. U. W. His religious connections are with the Methodist Episcopal society. Mr. and Mrs. Bouffleur have had eight children, five of whom are now living—William, Dora, wife of C. N. Harris, Harmon, Albert and Minnie.

William Lowrie was one of the best known and most respected citizens of Vernon county. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1799. At the age of fourteen years he was apprenticed to learn the carpenters trade, at which he was occupied as an apprentice and journeyman until he reached the age of twenty-one. Being of a studious turn of mind, he found time each day to spend a few hours in study or in reading instructive books, thus, with a mind richly stored with the beautiful thoughts and precepts of the grand old authors, with a perfect knowledge and mastery of his chosen trade; being possessed of honest principles, industrious and persevering habits, he was well fitted to go out into the world among strangers, and win friends and fortune for himself. At the age of twenty-five years he sailed for America, which became the home of his adoption. He first settled in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where he invested a considerable sum of money in lands, and worked at his trade as contractor and builder. Soon after his arrival in New York, he was married to Christiana Kerr, an amiable and beautiful young lady of Scotch parentage, whose father was one of the early settlers of that country. They lived in that State for a number of years, when enterprise and love for adventure prompted him to remove with his family to Vernon Co., Wis., where he became a resident of Jefferson town, in 1856. He settled on section 30, town 13 north, of range 5 west, where he was engaged in farming, and lived prosperous and happy until his death, which took place Jan. 20, 1879, at the ripe old age of eighty years. He was a noble man, a loving and kind husband and father, and a true friend. Mrs. Lowrie still survives her husband. As a true, faithful, loving, patient wife and mother, none can excell her. She bore the inconvenience and hardships of pioneer life, with a courage which nothing but deep love for her husband and family, and a perfect trust in her Heavenly Father could have sustained. She is now living in her seventy-third year; for a lady of her age, she has retained remarkable eye-sight, still being able to read fine print, thread a needle and sew without spectacles. Her mind is unusually active and retentive, and she converses fluently with friends upon the early scenes and incidents of their early life in Wisconsin.

J. P. Lowrie, son of William Lowrie, was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., June 22, 1840. He came with his parents to Wisconsin and has since resided in Vernon county. He was married in 1871 to Rebecca Kaden. They have three children—Lurana V., Alexander and Lovary. In politics, Mr. Lowrie is a republican.

N. A. Sackett was born Nov. 9, 1829, in Duchess Co., N. Y. He removed with his parents to Chautauqua county, at the age of seven years. Here he grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-one years he married Mary E. Dewey. Mr. Sackett came to Dane Co., Wis., in July, 1857, with his wife and two of her sisters with their families; visiting there until spring. Then he came to Vernon county, (then called Bad Ax) where he has since resided on section 6, town 13, range 5, and has followed farming as an occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Sackett have had three children. The oldest, a son, died in infancy at their former home. Flora M. aged twenty-one, and Charles A. aged nine years, are still with their parents. Mr. Sackett, wife and daughter are members of the U. B. Church. In politics, he is a republican.

James Creviston came to Vernon county in June, 1855, living in Kickapoo valley one summer, then settling on section 15, Jefferson

town, where he died, Feb. 9, 1883, of heart disease. Mr. Creviston was born in Pennsylvania March 5, 1811. He removed with his parents to Indiana, where, in 1850, he was married to Mary Jane Garver, born in Ohio Feb. 26, 1832. They had six children—Emaline, wife of William V. Sheets, Francis, Henry, Leonora, Ada and Lillie. Mr. Creviston was a kind father and good neighbor. His wife still resides on the homestead.

John Sheets was born in Kentucky; subsequently he removed to Ohio, where he was married to Evaline VanDorn. He then removed to Illinois, where he died, leaving four children, three of whom are living—William V., Eliza A. and Isaac. Mrs. Sheets afterward married Daniel Mossholder, and in 1858 came to Wisconsin, settling in Vernon county.

William V. Sheets was born in Iroquois Co., Ill., Nov. 29, 1844. He came with his family to Wisconsin, in 1858, and has since resided in Vernon county. He enlisted Sept. 15, 1863, in the 13th Wisconsin Light Artillery, serving until the close of the war. In 1868 he married Emaline Creviston, daughter of James Creviston. They have two children—Mary Etta and Erminnie E.

Jonathan Wood and his son, L. J., came to Vernon county in 1854 and selected land on section 6, town 13, range 5, not locating thereon, however, until the spring of 1858. In the fall of 1857 Mr. Wood came from New York State to Dane Co., Wis., removing in the spring, as stated, to this county. That neighborhood has since been known as Woodville. While in New York Mr. Wood operated a sawmill, but after coming to Wisconsin was engaged in farming. He died in 1869.

L. J. Wood was born Feb. 17, 1827, in Oneida Co., N. Y. In his younger days he assisted his father in the mill, and also served for two years as clerk in a store. He was married in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y. in 1848, to Sarah Dewey, also a native of New York State. They have had four children, two of whom are living—Charles L. and Minnie, wife of Hiram Bender. Mr. Wood belongs to the United Brethren Church.

C. L. Wood was born in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Jan. 17, 1850. He came with his parents to Vernon county, and has since resided on the same section with them. In 1874 he married Anna Frazier, daughter of William Frazier. They had two children—Winnie, deceased, and Nellie. In religious views Mr. Wood is a United Brethren.

William Harris became a resident of Jefferson town October, 1859. He was occupied in farming a few years, then engaged in the milling business, at Newton, until 1879, when he removed to Nebraska. He was born in Ohio and reared on a farm. He was married to Prudence Williams, by whom he had eight children—Thomas, Elias, Clarissa, J. Enoch, Eunice, Lawson, Mary and Anna.

J. E. Harris, son of William and Prudence (Williams) Harris, was born Oct. 22, 1844, in Ohio. He came with his parents to Vernon county, and assisted his father on the farm. In December, 1866, he was united in marriage with Mary E. Thompson, daughter of E. P. Thompson In 1869 he went to Dickinson Co., Iowa, returning to Vernon county in 1873, since which time he has resided on section 31, town 13, range 5. His children are—Oliver E., Roy and Troy. In 1864 Mr. Harris entered the United States service, serving in company H, 12th Wisconsin Volunteers until the close of the war. He is a member of the G. A. R.

Ellis Reed was born Nov. 2, 1835, in Muskingum Co., Ohio, where his father was a farmer. He was married Jan. 13, 1859, to Hannah McLees, and soon started for Wisconsin, having previously, in 1858, purchased 278 acres of his present farm on section 14, town 13, range 5. He now owns 480 acres of land. His children are—Francis A., Harley Lincoln, Maggie, (deceased), Katie M., Nellie D. and an infant. In politics he is a republican, and has been chairman of the board of trustees of

the town. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. Mr. Reed is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ellis P. Thompson was born in Mount Pleasant, Jefferson Co., Ohio, April 27, 1816, and shortly after his birth his parents removed to Harrison Co., Ohio, where he was principally raised. He was left fatherless when about the age of ten years; his mother being poor his educational advantages were limited. He was one of eight children, and was put out to live with a neighbor, and shifted from place to place till old enough to maintain himself. He then hired with the farmers by the day and month, at from thirty-seven and a half to sixty-two and a half cents per day, or from ten to fourteen dollars per month, till about the age of twenty-two years, then moved to Morgan Co., Ohio, where he contracted with John Bernhard to farm his place on shares for several years, getting one-third of the grain only, during which time he was married to Edith Mendenhall. She died in 1847, leaving two children, one of which is now living—Eliza J., wife of Richard Pidcock, of Sullivan Co., Mo. In 1848 Mr. Thompson was married to Martha Rouanzoin, and subsequently rented a small farm for one year, then rented a larger farm for five years; then, having accumulated a small amount of capital, bought a farm for $2,500, paying $1,000 cash. Crops failing for the next three years, he was not able to meet his payments, and was obliged to make some turn. Finding an opportunity, he traded for land in Wisconsin, with about eighteen acres cleared and a small house erected thereon, but encumbered with a mortgage of $500. It was located on section 32, town 13 north, of range 5 west, in Vernon county. He started with his family, in 1859, for Wisconsin, the journey being made with team, requiring thirty-one days. He arrived in Vernon a poor man, his property consisting of one team, a small amount of household goods, and sixty dollars in money. He has given his principal attention to farming, now owning 440 acres of land, his improvements being among the best, and is now in comfortable circumstances—the result of industry and economy. By his second marriage he had eight children, six of whom are living—Mary E., Jacob A., William P., Emaline H., Martin B. and Carrie A. In politics he is a National greenbacker; is also a member of the Christian Church.

G. F. Jackson was born in Chittenden Co., Vt., Feb. 18, 1810. His father operated a sawmill, and G. F. divided his time between working in the mill and farming. In 1834 he married Debora Cook, and subsequently emigrated to New York. In 1852 he went to California, leaving his family in New York. After remaining there three years he returned to the Empire State. In 1855 he went to Appleton, Wis., and in the spring of 1862, came to Vernon county and settled at his present residence. His children are—Caroline, Harriet, Frank and Alice.

Andrew Hanson was born in Norway, Nov. 20, 1841. He resided in his native country until twenty-one years of age, when he emigrated to the United States. He stopped first in Vernon county, his brother having settled there three years previous. Mr. Hanson did not settle down at first, but worked for sometime in Minnesota and also in the pineries of Wisconsin. He was married Dec. 12, 1874, to Elisa Evenson, two years younger than himself. They have now four children—Hans Engebret, born Sept. 1, 1875; Charl Mathias, born June 12, 1877; Minnie Helena, born Nov. 15, 1879, and Ellen Louise, born Jan. 26, 1882. He started a nursery and continued in the business a number of years, but not finding it profitable, sold out and put his whole attention to farming, and by hard work and good management has now a farm of 160 acres of good land, good buildings, and all the implements to run the same successfully. He has seven brothers and two sisters residing in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In

politics he is a republican, and is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Alonzo F. May, son of Col. Reuben May, was born in Clay Co., Ky., March 12, 1853. He came with his family to Vernon Co., Wis., and assisted his father on the farm. May 28, 1883, he was married to Eva Eckhardt, daughter of Jacob Eckhardt. He has since resided on section 36, Jefferson town, where he has a neat home.

William J. May, a son of Col. Reuben May, was born in Kentucky, Jan. 15, 1842. He came with the family to Wisconsin in 1863, and has since been a resident of Vernon county, with the exception of one year, when he followed farming in Monroe county, this State. He has always tilled the soil, excepting two years, when he had charge of the grist mill at Newton. In the fall of 1882 he settled on section 36, Jefferson town, and now owns sixty acres of land. On Dec. 13, 1866, he married Rachel M. Hayes, daughter of John Hayes. They are the parents of one son—James F. Politically Mr. May is a greenbacker. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

H. Amunson is a native of Norway, born June 20, 1846. He resided in his native country until 1864, at which time he emigrated to the United States, and has since been a resident of Vernon county. In 1866 he began clerking for Philip Bouffleur, with whom he continued until Sept. 1, 1883, when he purchased a half interest in the business, the firm name being H. Amunson & Co. In the fall of 1868 he was married to Leanna Latta. They have had five children, two of whom are living—Philip and Carrie. Mr. Amunson is a stirring business man and is very successful. He is republican in politics. In religious views a Methodist Episcopal.

Col. Reuben May is a native of Pike Co., Ky., born June 23, 1815. His parents were natives of Virginia. They had twelve children, ten of whom are still living. Reuben spent his early life on his father's farm. He was married March 5, 1835, to Miss E. V. Honaker, also a native of Kentucky. In 1849 he removed to Clay county, being engaged in making and shipping salt, also working a farm of 400 acres. In 1861, when State after State was seceding from the Union, Mr. May was found loyal to his country, and on the 27th of September, enlisted in the United States service, and was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 8th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. In May, 1863, he was appointed colonel of the 7th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and served as such with credit to himself and country until Oct. 5, 1864, when the regiment was mustered out of service. Mr. May participated in many hard fought battles, and a number of skirmishes. He commanded the 8th Kentucky in the battles of Perryville, Laurel Hill, Stone River, Murfreesboro; and the 7th Kentucky in the siege of Vicksburg, battle of Jackson, Miss., Comut River, La., Semmes Port, Yellow Bayou, etc. He was wounded at Murfreesboro, and disabled for four months. At the close of the war Mr. May came to Wisconsin, locating in Jefferson town, Vernon county, where his family had previously located in 1863. He has given his principal attention to farming. In politics Col. May was first a democrat, but in 1860 voted for John Bell for the Presidency. And in 1864 he cast his ballot for Abraham Lincoln. In 1870 and 1872 he represented his district in the General Assembly. In 1875 he was a candidate for State senator, and it was only after a contested election that his opponent, J. Henry Tate, was declared elected by a majority of six votes. When the National greenback party sprang into existence, Col. May became one of its advocates, and in 1879 was their candidate for governor. His wife died Jan. 28, 1881, leaving ten children—Louisa J., Mary D., William J., Thomas H., Zuingliens S., Robert D., Alonzo F., Albert B., Richard A., (deceased), and Hugh L. Feb. 28, 1883, he married Mrs. Phebe A. Aiken, *nee* Dolliver. Col. May is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F., the G. A. R. and the

State Grange. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Michael Rentz was born June 25, 1846, in Norway. He learned the tanning business, which he followed in his native country, until 1868, at which time he emigrated to the United States. He first stopped in Decorah, Iowa, but soon removed to Chicago. Here he worked at his trade until 1870, when he came to Vernon county, settling at Esofea, where he erected a tannery, and soon after went in partnership with his brother, Christian, which they still continue. They also own 140 acres of land. In 1870 Michael Rentz married Agnethe Olson. They have five children—Mathilde, Agnes, Henry Norman, Olga and Amalie. Mr. Rentz is an independent greenbacker in politics He has held the position of postmaster, at Esofea, has also been a member of the town board, and for the present holds the office of town treasurer.

W. H. Jackson, blacksmith at Springville, Vernon county, became a resident of the county in 1872, being engaged for two years in farming, since which time, he has been proprietor of a general blacksmith and repair shop, also manufacturing a few wagons. Mr. Jackson was born Aug. 25, 1846, in Grant Co., Wis. His parents, James A., and Emily (Stiles) Jackson, are still residents of Grant county. Mr. Jackson's early life was spent at work in the mines, but when sixteen years of age, he commenced to work at his trade, which he continued to do until coming to Vernon county, Sept. 22, 1870. He was married to Sarah Jackson, daughter of A. Jackson, of Viroqua. They have an adopted son—Samuel Lee Wilson. Mr. Jackson is a well informed citizen and has many friends. He is a democrat in politics. His religious connections are with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

L. N. Shaw was born in Quincy, Mass., Aug 25, 1827. Being the son of Capt. John W. Shaw, he became imbued with the life of a sailor when a small boy, and thus at the age of fifteen years, took to the sea, and followed a sailor's life until nearly forty years of age, when he was obliged to give up a sea-faring life on account of ill health. During these years Mr. Shaw had visited nearly all of the navigable globe, sailing on the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, experiencing the various changes incident to a sailor's life, and was shipwrecked three times, and during these years had been instrumental in saving twelve lives from shipwreck. Mr. Shaw had passed through all the grades of a sailor, from the forecastle to the quarter deck, and at the age of twenty-one, became master of a vessel, sailing on the coast and inland waters of California, for eight years. In 1863 Capt. Shaw with impaired health, left California for his native State, where, in the city of Boston, he embarked in the general provision business. In 1877 he came to Wisconsin, succeeding L. G. P. Adams as proprietor of the Springville House, of which he is still landlord, having also added to his hotel, a grocery business, which he is conducting in connection with the house. Capt. Shaw has been twice married. His first wife was Betsy C. Phillips, to whom he was married in 1853. She died in 1870, leaving three children—Catherine W., Emma L., and Walter L. In 1872 he married Mrs. Emily A. Newcomb, *nee* Adams. She had two children by her former marriage, one now living—Albert C.

CHAPTER XLII.

THE TOWN OF KICKAPOO.

Kickapoo is among the southern tier of towns of Vernon county, and comprises a portion o four congressional townships—townships 11 and 12, range 3 west, and townships 11 and 12, range 4 west of the fourth principal meridian. The surface is very much broken having within its boundary a number of large hills. At an early day there was a large amount of heavy timber of which there is still standing a large quantity, consisting of white oak, rock maple, basswood and other varieties. Thousands of railroad ties have been annually obtained from the timber in this town. The large game, such as deer, elk and bear, existed in great numbers during the first decade of the settlement of the country, but they are now unknown. Small game yet abounds.

The Kickapoo river runs through the town. Its two branches—the east and west forks—make confluence on section 4. The river is fed by many small streams which enter into and help swells the volume of water. The smaller streams are made up from the many clear and sparkling springs that exist in various parts of the county.

The soil is generally rich and productive where tillable, and is well suited to indigenous as well as native grass, which makes the town an excellent one for stock. Those that have, in the past, engaged in stock raising, have been uniformly successful. Some maple sugar, of an excellent quality, is annually made by the enterprising citizens. Bees thrive here, and many of the farmers have been quite successful in the past few years, in bee culture.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settler in the town of Kickapoo was Daniel Read, who came here in 1849. He was a native of Tioga Co., N. Y., but had lived several years in St. Joseph Co., Mich. He came to Vernon county in 1846 or 1847, settled near Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin, and opened up a farm. On his arrival in Kickapoo he built a saw mill on Read's creek, as it is now called. He was a bachelor, and well advanced in years at the time of his settlement here. He was an enterprising man, as will be seen by reference to the village history. He was a jovial man, good hearted, and much esteemed by all. He died here in 1862. At the time of his death he made his home with Gilbert Herrick.

Orrin Wisel came with Mr. Read, or about the same time. He was a blacksmith by trade, and opened the first shop in the town.

The first farm in this town was opened by Philip Schneider, who located here in 1849. He was a native of Bavaria and had lived near Viroqua the previous two years. He settled in the Kickapoo valley on section 5, town 11, range 3 west, and still resides on the old homestead.

Archibald and Daniel Day, natives of Kentucky, came in 1851. The former settled on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 9, town 11, range 3 west. He died there in 1876. His daughter, now the wife of Thomas Gosling, occupies the homestead. Daniel entered land on sections 17 and 18, of the same town and range. He sold in 1855, to Seth Edson, who now occupies the place. Daniel died about 1857.

Henry B. Hopkins, a native of Connecticut, came here from Grant Co., Wis., in 1853, and

entered land on section 14, town 11, range 3 west, where he still lives.

Abel C. Cushman, from Vermont, came here in 1853, and erected a saw mill on the east fork of the Kickapoo. He was a pioneer in Jefferson Co., Wis., having lived there for several years prior to his removal to this county. The mill is now operated by his son James.

David Barril, a native of Scotland, came during the winter of 1853–4, and entered land on section 35, town 12, range 3 west, where he still lives.

R. F. Carey was from the Nutmeg State. He came to Vernon county, in 1854, and entered a portion of section 10, town 11, range 3 west. He settled on this land the following year, and there made his home until 1883, when he sold out and left the town.

Samuel Baldwin was a settler of 1854. He was from New York. On his arrival in Vernon county, he made choice of land on section 2, town 11, range 3 west, where he located and lived some years and then removed to Richland county. In 1883 he went to Kansas.

Daniel Hill, a native of Illinois, by profession a physician, came in 1853, and located on the northeast quarter of section 26. He was afterwards convicted of horse stealing, served a term in the penitentiary, and then returned to the town, but finally removed to Kansas.

The Keystone State furnished a settler in 1853 in the person of Peter Neeley, He settled on section 1, town 11, range 3, lived there eight or nine years, then returned to Pennsylvania, where he died a few years later. His widow now lives in Washington territory.

Francis Lawton, a native of New York, also came in 1853, from Jefferson Co., Wis., and, in company with A.C.Cushman, built a saw-mill. In 1858 he sold out and went to Rockton, where he built a grist mill. He now lives in Washington territory.

John Grubbs was another of the pioneers of 1853. He located on the northeast quarter of section 36. He is now dead and his widow lives in Richland county.

Abraham Benn, from England, came in 1856 and located on section 1. He enlisted in the Union army during the war and died in the service. Some of the family yet reside in the town.

John Harrison and Henry Glasburn, originally from Illinois, came from Viroqua in 1849. The year following they built a saw-mill on the west fork of the Kickapoo. About the time of the war they sold out and left the town.

William Austin settled in Readstown in 1853. He was something of a pettifogger and quite a musician. Two of his daughters were good musicians and occasionally gave public concerts. Mr. Austin left the county durng war times and now resides in California.

George Miller came in 1853, lived in Readstown a few years, then left his family and returned to Illinois, from whence he came.

Gilbert Herrick, a native of New York State, came from Viroqua in 1853. He was a carpenter by trade and worked at the business together with farming. He made his home in Readstown until his death, which occurred in 1879. His widow survived him but a few months. Three daughters are yet living, two of whom reside in Iowa, the other still living at Readstown.

In 1854 Daniel B. Hale came to Readstown. He is a nephew of Mr. Read and is yet a resident of the village.

James McSharry, a native of Ireland, came from Galena, Ill., in 1853. He entered land on section 36, town 12, range 4, where he located and remained three years, then went to section 7, town 11, range 3, where he lived until 1882 when he removed to Rising Sun, where he died on Easter Sunday, 1883. His widow and two daughters now reside in Rising Sun.

Robert Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania, came in 1852 from Richland county and entered land on sections 35 and 36, town 12, range 3

west. He built a house on section 35 and still resides there.

Lorenzo Hill was from New York. He came in 1853 and located on section 25, town 12, range 3. He was a single man at the time, but soon afterwards married a daughter of Robert Wilson. His wife died in 1857 and he subsequently sold out and left the county. He is now a resident of Washington territory.

Albert Bliss, a native of Vermont, came to Readstown in 1854 from Grant Co., Wis., where he had lived several years. He opened a store that fall, and the next year embarked in the hotel business. He was a resident of the town until 1883, when he removed to Viroqua.

William Powell located on section 12, town 11, range 3, in 1854. He was a minister of the Christian or Disciple Church, but engaged in teaching the greater part of his residence in the county. He remained here ten or twelve years, but now resides in Viroqua.

Charles Allen, a native of Virginia, came from Ohio in 1854 and settled on section 3, where he remained until his death in 1874. His widow subsequently married H. B. Hopkins.

James Medlicut, a native of England, came in 1854 and settled on section 1, town 11, range 4 west. He lived there about twelve years, when he moved to Iowa, where he has since died. Two of his sons now live in Iowa.

William Geddes settled in the Kickapoo valley in 1855, buying land on section 33, town 12, range 3 west, where he still lives. He is a native of Ohio.

James Fox, a native of Pennsylvania, came in 1854, first locating on section 4, town 11, range 4, where he lived two years, then moved to section 8, town 11, range 3 west. He died there in August, 1883. He was a wagon maker by trade, and worked at his trade the greater part of the time, while a resident of the town. He was an active and influential member of the Christian Church.

Rodman Baker was among the settlers of 1855. He was a native of New York, but came here from Green Lake Co., Wis., locating on section 14. In 1858 he removed to Marion Co., Mo., and died there in 1879. His widow still lives there. His daughter, the widow of A. P. Bliss, lives at Readstown.

James Foreman, a native of Pennsylvania, came in 1855. He bought village lots in Kickapoo and built a log house. He died there in 1857. His widow now lives with her daughter, who is the wife of Ransom Kellogg. His son, James, a successful farmer, lives on section 2, town 11, range 3 west.

O. C. Fortney is a native of Norway. He came here from Madison Co., Wis., in 1855, and first located on section 13, town 11, range 4 west. He lived there about one year, then moved to section 11, of the same town. In 1882 he moved to section 2, where he died in 1883. His widow yet resides on the latter homestead.

James Maiben, by birth, was a Scotchman. He came here from Grant Co., Wis., in 1854, bought land on section 8, town 11, range 3. He died Jan. 8, 1857. His family still reside here.

Francis Dupee came from Grant Co., Wis., in 1856. He enlisted in the army and died in the service. His son Henry also died in the service. The family now occupy the old homestead.

Henry Cumrine located on section 10, town 11, range 3 west, in 1855. He was a native of Maryland, but came here from Ohio. He built a two story hewed log house on his arrival, which he still makes his home.

George Spurrier was from Jefferson Co., Ohio. He came here in 1855, and entered eighty acres of land on section 14, town 11, range 3, where he still resides.

John Crook, a native of England, was a settler of 1857. He located on section 26, town 12, range 4. In 1870 he moved to the town of Franklin, where he now lives. His son William now lives on the old homestead.

Reuben Alexander was from Indiana. He located on section 11, town 11, range 3, in 1857 where he yet resides.

Among the settlers of 1855 was Zachariah Smith, a native of Ohio, but who came from Indiana, and located on section 13, town 11, range 5, where he still lives.

His brother, William A. Smith, came the same year, and settled on the same section. He died in 1880. His family still occupy the homestead.

Reuben Drake, a native of New Jersey, came in 1855, from Indiana, and settled on section 12, town 11, range 3, where he yet remains.

John Gribble, a native of Pennsylvania, came from Indiana in 1854, and located on section 36, town 11, range 3. In 1871 he moved to Viola, where he died in 1875. His widow now lives in Richland county.

One of the pioneers of 1856, worthy of special mention in this connection, is William Pugh (deceased), who was born in North Carolina, in 1781, and died at Readstown, in 1869 When young, he moved to Virginia, where he married in 1810, and a few years later, removed to Kentucky, where he remained until 1845, at which time he came to Wisconsin and spent a year in Grant county. He then returned to Kentucky, and remained until 1856, when he moved back to Wisconsin, and settled near Readstown, Vernon county, where he spent the remainder of his days. Mrs. Pugh was born in the State of Virginia, June 26, 1794. She married Mr. Pugh the January before she was sixteen years of age, and by him had twenty-one children, thirteen of whom lived to manhood and womanhood. The mother, when ninety years of age, (1883) was well preserved and enjoyed good health. The year she was ninety, she was out walking, when a rattle snake came across her pathway, which had seven rattles. Mrs. Pugh found a stick, hunted the venomous reptile out from his hiding place and killed it; this took more courage than most of her children or grand-children would have possessed. In 1884 she was making her home with her son, Andrew J., near Readstown.

ORGANIC.

Kickapoo town was organized in 1853. The first election was held at Orin Wisel's house, May 29 of that year. The territory embraced forty six sections, and has never been changed. Several attempts have been made to sub-divide it, but such attempts have always failed No record of the first town officers can be given, except that Robert Wilson was the first justice of the peace.

Officers of 1883: P. L. Rush, Lewis Anderson and John Claney, supervisors; William Hutchinson, assessor; J. J. McCarty, clerk; George Spurrier, A. M. McClarin and Henry Sutherland, justices of the peace; A. S. Cary, constable.

VILLAGE OF READSTOWN.

In 1855 Daniel Read had platted a village to which he gave the name of Readstown. It is situated on a portion of sections 7 and 8, town 11, range 3, and lies upon both sides of the Kickapoo river. Mr. Read built the first house upon the site of the prospective village, in 1848. It was of round logs and located upon the east side of the river.

Before the village was platted quite a settlement had been made, and the first store opened by William H. Austin, early in the year 1854 Mr Austin continued in the business about one year, when he closed out. Albert Bliss opened the next store, in the fall of 1854. He continued in the business for several years, finally disposing of his interest to his son, Parker, who continued it until his death. His widow still carries on the business.

The citizens of Readstown, and those who did business at this point, were without mail facilities until 1857, when an office was established with Hiram Austin as the first postmaster, with the office at his residence. Mr. Austin was succeeded by Hugh McClarrien, who gave way, in 1861, to A. P. Bliss, who continued to discharge

the duties of the office until his death, when his widow was appointed. In February, 1881, Albert Bliss was commissioned and held the office until March, 1883, when he resigned and Mrs. A. P. Bliss was again appointed. Mail is now received three times a week.

The "village smith" is celebrated in poetry and illustrated by the artist, and no well regulated village is considered complete without a representative of this branch of industry. In 1850, five years before the village was platted, Orin Wisel opened a blacksmith shop in the place. He continued to work at his trade until 1860, when he closed the shop. It was reopened shortly after, by William Dailey, who continued until sometime during the war.

Albert Bliss, who was the second merchant in the place, opened the first hotel in 1855. It was a commodious frame building and considered an honor to the village. The hotel is now run by the widow of his son, Albert P. Bliss.

In the fall of 1854, a distillery was erected on the west bank of the river, by William H. Austin. The building was washed away in the spring of 1857, and never replaced, though Mr. Austin erected and run a brewery for about four years, upon its site. The brewery building was destroyed by fire.

In a new country, and cut off from general markets, and where the inhabitants are generally of the poorer class,a mill for sawing the native lumber, is greatly appreciated. In 1849 Daniel Read built a saw mill on what has since been known as Read's creek. It was supplied with a perpendicular saw. The mill stood about ten years, when it was replaced by another and better one, erected near the site of the old one. The new mill stood until 1881, when it was torn down.

A greater blessing, even than the old saw mill, was the grist mill, erected in a new settlement. As often narrated, the pioneers of this western country often suffered great inconvenience from the lack of milling facilities, and the man who erected a mill for the purpose of grinding the corn and wheat of the few settlers, was considered a public benefactor. In 1854 Daniel Read built a small mill, securing power from Read's creek, through a race one-third of a mile in length,and which afforded a seventeen foot fall. For two years the mill was supplied with but one run of buhrs, which was sufficient to meet the requirements of its patrons. A second run of buhrs was added in 1856. B. D. Hale was the first practical miller employed by Mr. Read. In 1859 the mill was rented to Thomas Hardin, who run it two years and was succeeded by Henry Lockwood, who also rented and run it two years. In the meantime Mr. Read died and his sister, Anna Hale, inherited one-third interest in the mill, which went to her son, B. D. Hale. Thomas Cade purchased the two-thirds interest. As soon as Lockwood's lease expired, Mr. Hale took charge of the mill, purchasing from Mr. Cade an amount sufficient to give him a half interest. With the exception of about two and a half years, when it was rented, the mill has been run by Mr. Hale, to the present time. It has now three run of buhrs—one for flour, one for middlings and the other for coarse grinding. It has all the machinery for making first-class flour. The building is 24x30 feet, one and a half stories high, with an addition 12x30 feet. In 1883 Francis H. Rogers bought Mr. Cade's interest, and is now associated with Mr. Hale in the management of the mill.

The west side of the river had the monopoly of the trade until 1876, when W. H. Aikins opened a store on the east side. The second store was opened in 1882 by J. J. McCarty.

A blacksmith shop was erected and the trade followed, by George Read, before the war. In 1868 Mr. Read disposed of the shop to George Kemmel, who yet continues in the business.

The business of Readstown in the fall of 1883 was represented by the following named:

William Aiken, Mrs. A. P. Bliss & Son and John McCarthy, general stock.

James Treseder, hardware dealer.

Mrs. A. P. Bliss, hotel.

George Kembell, Henry Wamburg and Lew Kellogg, blacksmiths.

Hale & Rogers, proprietors of the mill.

THE VILLAGE OF KICKAPOO.

The little collection of houses known as Kickapoo was laid out by Joseph Wood, on land owned by Robert Wilson, in 1857. It is situated on the west bank of the Kickapoo river, on section 35, town 12, range 3 west.

Knox & St. John opened the first store in 1857; they kept a general stock, including groceries. They continued about a year and closed out. Then came Samuel Green, who moved a stock into the same building—a log house long since torn down. Several persons have traded here from time to time. The trade in 1884 was left in the hands of Ambrose Osborne.

Robert Wilson kept the first hotel. He began to keep travelers when he first came to the county. In 1857 he built a frame hotel, called the "Jackson House," named in honor of "Old Hickory." They kept this as a public house till 1873.

A postoffice was established at this point in 1853. Robert Wilson was the first postmaster; he served over eighteen years and was succeeded by Lorenzo Hill, and he, by Samuel Green. Next came Thomas Dunning, who was followed by Mr. Wilson, who was in charge a year and followed by L. S. Kellogg.

In 1883 A. C. Cushman and Frank Lawton erected a saw mill on the east bank of the Kickapoo river, its power, however, being derived from Elk creek. This mill was still in use in 1884, when it was being run by his son, James M.

The first religious services in this vicinity were held at the school house in 1857. Preachers of various denominations conducted services in the place. A Methodist Episcopal class was organized, but prior to 1880 had been discontinued.

A Free Will Baptist society was organized in 1879, by Rev. F. B. Moulton, which had about thirty members. Robert Wilson and E. H. Bragg were chosen deacons. In the spring of 1880, a small church was built which cost about $600. In 1883, owing to most of the membership having moved away, the society was disbanded.

EDUCATIONAL.

The town of Kickapoo is well supplied with school houses, and in educational matters ranks among the best in the county.

The first school at Readstown was taught by Mrs. Bound in a small building erected for other purposes in 1854, but during that year a frame building was erected for school purposes, and the first school taught therein was by Jemima Wilson. This building was in use until 1867, when it was replaced by a larger and better one, which was still in use in the fall of 1883. Gardner Bliss was the first teacher in the new building. Each district in the town is supplied with a school house.

Joint district No. 1 secured its first school house in 1860. It was of logs and erected by the volunteer contributions (in labor) of the men in the district. The building was covered with slabs and had slab seats provided for the scholars. This building was replaced by the present one in 1871. Helen Hutchinson has the honor of being the first teacher in the new school house.

The first school in district No. 2 was held in Samuel Green's house in the winter of 1854–5. It was taught by Caroline McKasha. In 1857 a log house was erected, in which Isaac Osenbaugh taught the first school. It stood upon section 35, on the line of section 36. This house was used but a short time when a frame house was built on the same section line. Nettie Cliff was the first teacher in this house. In 1869 the present school building was erected and school was first taught therein by Annie Turner.

Elizabeth Williams taught the first school in district No. 3, in 1857. A rude log house had been erected that year for school purposes, lo-

cated on section 17, town 11, range 3 west. In two or three years it was replaced by a hewed log house, erected on the same lot. William Powell taught the first school in this house. In 1882 a neat frame school house was erected on section 11, in which Laura E. Smith taught the first school.

The first school in district No. 4 was in a building belonging to William Geddes, located on section 33. This was in 1856. Sarah Clark has the honor of being the first teacher. A school house was erected the same year on the northwest quarter of section 33, town 12, range 3 west.

In district No. 5 the first school house was built in 1857. It was of logs and located on the northwest quarter of section 9. It was built on the subscription plan. Mrs. R. F. Cory was the first teacher. The old log school house was used until 1876, when the present frame building was erected. William S Andrews was the first teacher in the new house, which is located on section 10.

District No. 6 is not provided with a school house.

The first school in district No. 7 was taught by Margaret McSharry in 1860. The school was held in a log house owned by Mr. Banta, located on section 11. A log house was bought of Mr. Brown and is still used as a school house. It is located on section 11. Almira Fox taught the first school in this house.

The first marriage in the town is not positively known. In 1855 Abner Hancock was united in marriage with Irena, daughter of John Harrison. Orin Wisel, justice of the peace, officiated on the occasion, the ceremony being performed at the house of Thomas Gillingham, at Readstown.

George Baker was united with Ulialah Shoults about the same time, at the residence of the bride's parents. Henry B. Hopkins, justice of the peace, officiated.

The first birth is also unknown, or at least has not come to the knowledge of the historian. An early birth was that of Elsie, daughter of H. B. and Emeline (Dean) Hopkins, born July 28, 1855. She is now married and living in Grant Co., Wis.

The first meetings of the Sugar Grove Christian Church were held at the residence of Zachariah Smith, in 1857. Rev. Daniel Parkerson was the first minister. This society was organized at the school house on section 13 in 1857 by George H. Babb. Abram Williams and Zachariah Smith were chosen elders and William Shore and Henry Davis, deacons. The original membership was composed of about fourteen persons, among whom were Zachariah Smith and wife, George Spurrier and wife, Reuben Drake and wife, Henry Davis and wife, William Shore and wife and Elmira Newman. Rev George H. Babb was the first regular preacher after the organization of the society. He was succeeded by Rev. Hurd, who, in turn, was followed by Rev. Henry Howe. The society has never had a regular settled pastor, but has been supplied by preachers from other points. Worship was continued in the school house some four or five years, when services were held in Richland county until 1875, when a neat frame building was erected on section 13, town 11, range 3, town of Kickapoo. A Sabbath school was organized at the school house soon after the organization of the society. William Powell was the first superintendent. The present superintendent is Rutson Drake.

The Methodist Episcopal Conference has sent ministers to Readstown since the time the village was laid out. The first meetings were held in the school house, Rev. Schooley being among the first preachers. No class was organized here until 1876, when Rev. McMillan organized one with about eight members, among whom were James Treseder and wife, Martha McKittrick and Mrs. Sylvia Bliss. James Treseder was appointed class-leader. In the winter of 1881–82 a revival was held, when several persons were added to the membership. In the spring of 1882 a house of worship was

erected on a lot donated by Daniel Read in 1860. Rev. R. S. Mockett is the present pastor of the Church.

A union Sabbath school was organized in 1882 with James Treseder as superintendent. It is held in the Methodist Church.

PERSONAL.

Josiah Adams, one of the settlers of Vernon county, was born in the town of Somerset, Somerset Co., Penn., Jan. 25, 1822. When he was quite young his parents moved to Ohio and became early settlers of Stark county, where he grew to manhood. In 1845 he went to the Maumee valley and bought timber land in Henry county. In 1849 he came to Wisconsin and spent the summer in Lafayette county. In the fall of that year he came to Bad Ax county and halted at Liberty Pole, which was at that time called Bad Ax. He made a claim on section 32, of town 12 north, of range 5 west. In the fall of 1850 he returned to Ohio and spent the winter and sold his land there, returning to this county in 1852. On the 3d of April, 1853, he started for California, going across the plains with ox teams. He arrived at Spanish Ranch the 8th day of September, having been over five months on the way. He engaged in mining and remained in California until 1855, when he returned to Liberty Pole, coming by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York. He then settled down and engaged farming, remaining in Franklin town until 1881, when he sold out and came to Kickapoo and bought land on section 33, of town 12 north, of range 3 west, where he now lives. He was married in 1860 to Mary Wright, of Ohio. They have one child, named Cyrus. His second and present wife was Rosetta Hooks, who was born in Mercer Co., Ohio, Feb. 5, 1833. Her father, Thomas Hooks, settled in Lafayette Co., Wis., in 1847.

Philip Schneider, one of the pioneers of Vernon county and the oldest living settler in the town of Kickapoo, was born in Bavaria, Sept. 15, 1815. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1837 he left his native land and emigrated to America. He landed at New York and went to New Jersey, where he was employed at farming for ten years. In 1847 he came to Wisconsin, and located in what was then called Crawford county. He stopped near Viroqua and helped Mr. Decker put up the first house ever erected in Viroqua. He remained there two years; then in 1849 came to town 11 north, of range 3 west, and entered land on section 5. He first built a small log cabin in which he lived until 1862, when he built the frame house in which he now lives. Mr. Schneider's farm is in the Kickapoo valley and contains 200 acres. It was the first farm opened up in the town. He was married in 1852 to Elizabeth Guist, born in Ohio. Four children have blessed this union—Jacob, Mary, George and Philip. Mrs. Schneider died in 1856. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1857, was a sister of his first wife and named Mary. She was the widow of Paul Sisler.

Samuel Estes is one of the oldest settlers now living in the county. He first came here in 1850, to hunt and trap. He camped on section 26, of town 12 north, of range 3 west, built him a bark hut and here lived in solitude two years. He killed elk, deer and bear, and other small game, selling the pelts at Prairie du Chien. After stopping here a few years, settlers began to come in, and he concluded this would be a good place to settle. He accordingly entered land on sections 25 and 26, and built a log house and engaged in farming. As he was the first settler here, he made a good selection in the Kickapoo valley. He has been twice married. His first wife was Ruth Hall, who was born in Ohio. Four children blessed this union, two of whom are now living—Elizabeth and Rachel. Mrs. Estes died in March, 1866, aged twenty-eight years. His second wife, to whom he was married in the fall of 1866, was Mary A. Shaw, also a native of Ohio. They have four children—Mellisa, Samuel, Annie and Henry. Mr. Estes was born in

Adams, Berkshire Co., Mass., May 28, 1820. When he was quite young, his parents removed to New York, and lived two years; then removed to Canada, and settled at London, now in the province of Ontario. At the breaking out of the patriot war, they returned to York State, and settled near Watertown, Jefferson county. They lived there but a short time, when they again moved to Cayuga county, and later to Cortland county. In 1846 he started west. He first halted near Elk Horn, where he was employed in farming and teaming until 1850, when he came to this county, as before stated. He lived in his log house until 1877, when he built the neat frame house in which he now resides.

James M., son of Abel C. and Elizabeth (Lawton) Cushman, was born in Jefferson Co., Wis., Sept. 6, 1850. His father was a native of Vermont, and his mother of New York. They were early settlers in Jefferson Co., Wis., and also in Vernon county, coming here in 1853. James M. attended the district school and the public school at Viroqua for two years. When young, he commenced to work in his father's saw-mill, and learned to be a sawyer. In 1873 he bought land on section 26, of town 12 north, of range 3 west, and has since that time engaged in farming summers and has run the saw-mill the remainder of the year. He was married, in 1868, to Maria J. Snow, who was born in Ohio. They have three children—Lillian, Alta and Florence.

Henry B Hopkins, one of the early settlers of Kickapoo town, was born in Newington, Hartford Co., Conn., May 18, 1817. He was the son of Horace and Fannie (Root) Hopkins, natives of Connecticut. When Henry was eight years of age, his parents moved to Ohio, settling in Portage county, where he grew to manhood, learning the carpenter trade. He was married May 30, 1839, to Emeline Dean, born in Trumbull Co., Ohio. They settled in Portage county, where Mr. Hopkins worked at his trade until 1848, when he came to Wisconsin, locating in Grant county. In 1853 he came to Vernon county, and entered the land where he now lives. He built a log house in which he lived until 1873, when he built the frame house in which he now lives. Mrs. Hopkin's mother died in December, 1837. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, four are living—Albert, Delia, George and Elsie. Harriet, born May 27, 1840, married Henry Henthorn, died Nov. 6, 1873; Eluell D., born May 27, 1858, died Nov. 2, 1880; Alfred H., born Oct. 6, 1852, died at Esofea, Wis., June 18, 1883. Mr. Hopkins second wife, to whom he was married May 6, 1875, was Nancy Holcomb, widow of Charles Allen. He was the first justice of the peace in the town, and was repeatedly elected to that office as long as his health was such that he could attend to the duties of it. He was also first postmaster of Sugar Grove postoffice, holding the position many years and resigning on account of his ill health.

Albert H, eldest son of Henry B. Hopkins, was born in Ellenboro, Grant Co., Wis., Nov. 14, 1847. In 1853 he came with his parents to Vernon county, making his home with them until 1868, when he was married to Mary J., daughter of William and Ann (Williams) Shore, and widow of Zebulon Metcalf. She was born in Perry Co., Ohio. They have six children, four of whom are living—Bertha A., Frances E., Myrta C. and Guy F. Emmet V. and Willie H. died in infancy. Soon after marriage Mr. Hopkins settled on his present farm, on the northwest quarter of section 11.

David Barrie is one of the oldest settlers now living in Kickapoo town. He is a native of Scotland, born in Perthshire, Feb. 14, 1814. When fourteen years of age he commenced to learn to weave, working at that for some time, after which he was engaged for thirteen years, on the river Tay, in the salmon fishing business. He was then employed for three years as gardener. In 1853 he came to America, landing at Montreal, and going to London, where he

visited with a brother-in-law, two months, then went to Butler Co., Penn., where he visited a brother. In November, 1853, he started west to seek a home, first stopping at Viroqua, and on the 1st of January, 1854, entering land on section 35, town 12, range 3, Kickapoo town. He first built a log cabin, in which he lived ten years, then erected a neat frame house, which was burned in October, 1877. Mr. Barrie then erected the frame house in which he now lives. He also has a log and a frame stable on his place. He made a good selection for a home, and now has one of the best farms in the county. When Mr. Barrie began pioneer life, in 1853, he worked three weeks in the dense wilderness without seeing a human being. Still he was not without company, for there were any amount of deer in the forest at that time. He went to LaCrosse, a distance of fifty miles, with an ox team, for his first provisions. It took him eight days to make the trip. His nearest postoffice was Viroqua, twelve miles distant. The nearest grist-mill was at Springville, a distance of sixteen miles.

Adelbert S. is a son of Roswell and Eliza Corey, pioneers of Vernon county. He was born in Bradford Co., Penn., March 29, 1851, and was but three years of age when his parents came to Vernon county. They located land on section 10, of town 11 north, of range 3 west, and our subject was there reared to manhood, dividing his time between the school and farm He was married in October, 1871, to Hester Salmon, and soon after bought land on sections 10 and 15, of town 11 north, of range 3 west, but two years later sold this piece and purchased 120 acres on section 12, of town 11 north, of range 4 west, where he resided until 1882, and then removed to an adjoining farm, on the same section. Mr. Corey and wife have been blessed with five children—William, Minerva, Ernest, James and Lillie May.

Daniel T., son of Torger and Kari Fortney, pioneers of Vernon Co., Wis., was born in Norway, April 7, 1845. When three years of age, his parents emigrated to America, locating in Dane Co., Wis. His mother died when he was seven years of age and his father was again married within a year after her death. In 1854 they started from Dane county with two yoke of oxen to each wagon, and settled in Vernon Co., Wis., on section 11, town 11 north, range 4 west. Here Daniel grew to manhood, receiving a good education in the district schools. He was married June 9, 1858, to Anna Peterson, and settled on the homestead. This union was blessed with seven children, of which three went to the Eternal home while infants. The four living are Torger, Nils Elias, Anna Maria and Gerhard Olaus. His father died in 1880, in his seventy-second year. Mr. Fortney has been prominent in town affairs, having held offices of trust in the town. In 1882 he engaged in mercantile business at Liberty Pole, in company with his brother-in-law Knudt Peterson. They are doing an extensive business—buying and selling live stock and grain.

Reuben Drake is one of the early settlers of Vernon county. He was born in New Jersey, in 1824. When quite young, his parents removed to Ohio, and settled on a farm. He was there married, in 1846, to Matilda A. Sanders, born in Columbiana Co., Ohio. He bought a piece of land in Perry county, and engaged in farming until 1851, when he sold and went to Indiana, and spent one and a half years. He then returned to Perry county, and remained there until 1855. In the spring of that year, he came to Vernon county, and entered land on section 12, of town 11 north, of range 3 west, where he still resides. He first built a small log cabin in which the family lived five years, and then built a hewed log house. In 1870 he erected the frame house in which he now lives. His son Benjamin was born in Perry Co., Ohio, in October, 1849. He came to Wisconsin with his parents. His younger days were spent in school, and on his father's farm. He was joined in marriage in April, 1871, to Sarah Beighle, a native of Pennsylvania. In the fall of that

year, they went to Iowa, and he took a homestead in Lyons county, and there remained one and a half years; then returned to Kickapoo town, and bought land on section 13, of town 11 north, of range 3 west. In 1881 he bought another tract on the same section, on which is the neat frame house in which he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Drake are the parents of five children—Blanche, Elmer G., Epsie E., Jesse O. and Gertie J.

Seth Edson, one of the early settler of Kickapoo, was born in Broome Co., N. Y., July 8, 1827, and was there reared to agricultural pursuits. He lived there until 1855, when he came to Bad Ax county, as it was then called, and purchased land of Daniel Day, on sections 17 and 18, of town 11 north, of range 3 west. There was a log house on this land at the time. He lived in that a few years, then built the frame house in which he now lives. He was married, in 1859, to Caroline Weybright, a native of Ohio. Five children blessed this union—Almira, Rhoda, Ella, William and Margaret Mrs. Edson died in May, 1874, and he was again married in 1877, to Susan Anderson. They have three children—Samuel L., Dora J. and Nora May. His father's name was Guy Edson; born in Pelham, Hampshire Co., Mass., March 17, 1794. He was there married to Rhoda Packard, who was also a native of that county. They moved to New York, and settled in Broome county, where he bought a farm and lived until 1871, when he came to Wisconsin to join his children. He now makes his home with his daughter, in Crawford county.

James Foreman, an early settler in Kickapoo Center, was born in Butler Co., Penn., in 1808. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Bortemus, was also a native of Butler county. Seven children blessed this union, three living—Rudolph, now a resident of Fayette Co., Iowa; Romania E., wife of Ransom Kellogg, who resides on section 14, and James. In 1855, in company with his family, he came to Bad Ax county and located at Kickapoo Center, where he bought town lots. He died here in 1857. His son James was born in Butler Co., Penn., Feb. 14, 1837. He came to Wisconsin and made his home with his parents until the time of his father's death. In 1856 he bought land on section 2, of town 11 north, of range 3 west. He was married in 1857 to Margaret, daughter of Robert Dobson, a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Kickapoo in 1857. At the time of his marriage he settled on his land. He had already commenced improvements, and had built a log house in which he lived until 1864, when he built the frame house in which he now lives. He has been a successful farmer and now owns 216 acres of land, a part of which is in the Kickapoo valley. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman are the parents of four children—Sarah A., Charles, Martha E. and Jane M.

Ole Fortney was one of the first Norwegians to settle in the town of Kickapoo. He was born June 4, 1823. He received a liberal education when young, and after finishing school, he engaged with a carpenter to learn the trade, and worked at that until 1850, when he came to America. He located at Madison, Wis., and worked at his trade. He was there married, in 1852, to Cornelia Johnson. They remained in Madison until 1855, when he took an ox team and with his family started for Bad Ax (now Vernon) county. He bought land on section 13, of town 11 north, of range 4 west; built a log house and lived there one year, then traded for land on section 11, of the same town, and moved there with his family. He built a log house and lived in that until 1882, when he gave that farm up to one of his sons. He then built a neat frame house on section 2, of the same town, and moved there with his family. He had for some time been in feeble health and did not live long to enjoy his nice new home. He passed to his rest April 1, 1883, leaving a widow and eight children to mourn his loss. The children are—Catharine, Hans, Christina, John, Ole, Martha, Sophia and Mary.

William Geddes was born in Harrison Co., Ohio, April 12, 1830. His father, Henry Geddes, was born in Bucks Co., Penn., twenty-eight miles from Philadelphia, in the same house in which his father was born. He was there married to Tamzon Forst, born in New Jersey. They settled in Ohio at an early day. When William was quite young, his parents removed to Morgan Co., Ohio., where they remained until the time of their death. In early manhood William went to McConnellsville, the county seat of Morgan county, engaging with a carpenter to learn the trade. He worked at his trade until the fall of 1854, when he started west to seek a home. He spent the winter twelve miles from Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio. In the spring of 1855 he again started on his journey, and coming to Vernon county, located on section 33, town 12, range 3, in the Kickapoo valley, and built a frame house, 16x24 feet. Mr. Geddes has since cleared a farm, made a large addition to his house, and now makes this his home. He was married in 1851 to Laura Ann Hagerman, born in Washington Co., Ohio. Eleven children blessed this union —Henry, Rhoda A., James E., Julia A., Isabell, Fiannah, Edward D., Ella and Nellie, twins, Rosa and John Irving. Henry was born July 28, 1852, died Feb. 8, 1881. John Irving died in infancy.

Zachariah Smith was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, Nov. 25, 1821. When fourteen years of age his parents moved to Morgan county, where they lived four years, then moved to Perry county. His father died soon after and Zachariah then started in life for himself. He married, in 1843, Amy Battin, born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, March 27, 1822. They went to Indiana in 1846, locating in the western part of Howard county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were among the first in starting the Disciple Church in Burlington, Carl Co., Indiana. Mr. Smith was deacon of that Church for a number of years. In 1855 he and his wife and five small children started for the northwest with their covered wagons. They traveled under many hardships, especially the mother who had the care of the children, they being sick most of the time. They forded the Tippecanoe river, and narrowly escaped being drowned. They landed in Bad Ax (now Vernon), Co., Wis., Nov. 9, 1855. Mr. Smith bought timber land and immediately commenced to clear a farm. There was a small cabin on the place where they lived four years. The country being new and no churches near, the early settlers met in his house to worship God. Elder Parkerson was the first preacher in this place. In 1860 Mr. Smith erected a hewed log house in which he lived until 1881, when he built the neat frame house where he now resides. His farm is in Sugar Grove, one of the most pleasant localities in Vernon county. Mr. Smith was one of the first in establishing the district school and also the Disciple Church, in this place, of which he was an elder for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are parents of ten children. The oldest son enlisted in the War of the Rebelion and died at Nashville, Tenn., in 1865.

Sever Thompson was one of the early Norwegian settlers in Vernon county. He was born in Norway, Jan. 14, 1828, and in 1853 came to America, joining his countrymen in Dane Co., Wis. He remained there two years and in 1855 made a settlement in Bad Ax (now this) county. He located on the southwest quarter of section 13, town 11 north, of range 4 west, on which he erected a log cabin. One year later he sold this land and purchased the northwest quarter of the same section, and removed his primitive dwelling house to his new farm. He subsequently weather-boarded and painted his cabin, giving it the appearance of a frame house. He cleared up the farm and lived there till his death, which occurred April 24, 1883. He left a widow and five children to mourn his death. The children are—Betsey, Ole Nels, Emma, Thomas and Soren. The eldest son, Ole, is a teacher in the public schools. He was born in this town, Nov. 1,

1858. He received his early education in the district school and was afterward a student at the graded schools of Viroqua.

Henry Benn was an early settler of Kickapoo town. He was born in Cumberlandshire, England, Oct. 16, 1829. In January, 1853, he left his native land for America, and located in Jefferson Co., Wis., where he was married, in 1854, to Susan Holinger, a native of Ohio. In 1856 Mr. Benn came to Vernon county and bought forty acres of land on section 35, of town 12 north, of range 3 west, erected a log house, and resided there for three years. He then sold his property and purchased another "forty" of unimproved land, and again erected a substantial log cabin. In 1864 he enlisted in company C, 43d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and served till the war closed and received an honorable discharge. In 1864 he purchased land on section 35, adjoining the town plat of Kickapoo, on which he has since resided. In April, 1882, he had the misfortune to lose his house by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Benn have been blessed with two children—Ida, wife of John Lowry, of Richland Co., Wis., and a son that died in infancy.

James Claney, one of the pioneers of Vernon county, was born in county Cork, Ireland, in 1815. When fifteen years of age he left home and his native land to seek a home in America. After living in Maryland for some years he went to Memphis, Tenn., where he was married to Maria Osborne, born in Kentucky. They went to Galena, Ill., where they lived until 1856, when they came to Vernon Co., Wis., settling on section 36, town 12, range 4. Mr. Claney improved the land, making this his home until his death in 1875. His widow, with her son James, now occupies the homestead. Mr. Claney left four children—William, John, Mary and James.

John Claney, son of James and Maria (Osborne) Claney, was born March 20, 1847, in Galena, Ill., being but nine years of age when his parents settled in this county. His younger days were spent in school and at work on the farm. In 1867 he engaged with George Read to learn blacksmithing and has worked at that trade the greater part of the time since. Mr. Claney also owns a farm located on section 1, town 11, range 4. In 1881 he formed a partnership with Mr. Baker, at Readstown, to do general blacksmithing and wagon making. In 1882 Mr. Baker died and Mr. Claney now has a shop at his home. In 1870 Mr. Claney was married to Catharine Joyce, born in Madison, Wis. They have had four children—Thomas Francis, Isabelle and Grace, twins, and Charles. On Sept. 1, 1864, Mr. Claney enlisted in the Union army, serving ten months and receiving an honorable discharge when the war closed.

Thomas Flanagan was born in county Longford, Ireland, in 1821, where his younger days were spent in school. In 1841 he came to America, landing at New York city, where he was engaged in the manufacture of brick on the Hudson river. He remained there until 1845, when he went to Galena, Ill., and engaged as clerk in the smelting furnace of Corinth & Co. In 1851 he went by way of the Isthmus to California. He engaged in mining at Downieville until winter, when he bought a lot of mules and with provisions started for the mountains. In 1853 he returned by way of Nicaragua to Galena. He remained there until 1854, when he bought eight horses and sixteen head of cattle and, in company with seven others, started across the plains for California. He was there engaged in the mines and in a saw mill. In 1856 he returned to Galena and after making a short stop came to Wisconsin, buying land on sections 1 and 12, town 11, range 4, and on sections 6 and 7, town 11, range 3, where he removed in the winter of 1856–57 with his family. He first built a small frame house in which he lived until 1871, when he built the commodious one in which he now lives. He has nearly 600 acres in Kickapoo town and 140 in Franklin town. Mr. Flanagan was married

in 1847 to Bridget Finley, who was born in Lafayette Co., Wis. They have had six children —Edmund P., Maria, William, John, Joseph and Nellie. Mr. Flanagan has been prominent in town affairs and has filled offices of trust. He was town clerk for eight successive years.

Helge Larson, one of the pioneers of Kickapoo town, was born in Norway, Feb. 16, 1826. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. He was married in 1850 to Carrie Svalhein. In 1855 they left their native land and came to the United States. They first settled in Dane Co., Wis., and in 1856 came to Vernon county, purchasing land on section 13, town 11, range 4. He built a log house and improved a part of the land. He sold this farm in 1867 and purchased land on sections 28 and 33, town 12, range 3. He moved there with his family and made this his home until his death, which occurred in 1875. He left five children—Soin, Lewis, Susan, Emma and Ole. Soin was born June 17, 1850; died June 3, 1880. Lewis was born Nov. 9, 1855; died May 29, 1880. Ole, the youngest son, was born Feb. 16, 1862. He received a liberal education in the public schools. He with his sisters, resides on the homestead with his mother.

William Crook is a native of England, born in Devonshire, August, 1845, living there and in Cornwall until 1857, when he left his native land, with his parents, for America. After landing at New York city, they came to Vernon county, settling on section 26, town 12, range 4. William was married, in 1869, to Catharine Hall, born in Ohio. They have had three children—Frank, Minnie and Rosa A. In 1879 he moved to Franklin town, buying a farm on section 21. After remaining there two years, he returned to his former home on section 26, Kickapoo town, on which he has erected a good set of buildings, now having one of the best farms in the town, containing 200 acres of land. Mr. Crook's parents, John and Charlotte (Searls) Crook, were both natives of Devonshire, England. His mother died in 1870; his father now lives in Franklin town.

John R. Lake, one of the pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Devonshire, England, March 29, 1829. His father was a farmer, but when quite young John R. engaged with a plasterer to learn the trade, at which he worked, until 1855, in his native land, when he came to America. He landed at Quebec, coming directly to Wisconsin, and locating at Janesville, where he worked at his trade for three years, then going to Iowa, spent one year in Mitchell, Mitchell county. He then came to Vernon county, bought forty acres of land on section 26, town 12, range 4, and commenced farming. He built a small frame house in which he lived twelve years, then moved to section 23, town 12, range 4, in Viroqua. He has since improved this land, built a neat frame house, and now makes it his home. He has been a successful farmer, now having 320 acres of land. Mr. Lake was married, in 1859, to Charlotte, daughter of John and Charlotte (Searls) Crook. They have had ten children — William Henry, Levi John, Augustus Stockholm, Amelina Ann, Samuel Welobee, Albert, Clementine, Frederick, Ella and Ethel. Mr. Lake was instrumental in the organization of the school district in which he lives, and was the first clerk, which office he has held continuously, with the exception of a short time in which he was not in the district. During the war, Mr. Lake enlisted in company B., 50th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and served faithfully until honorably discharged.

Fredrick Olson first visited this county in 1859. He was born in Norway, Nov. 5, 1834. His younger days were spent in acquiring an education. At sixteen years of age, he was apprenticed to a tailor at Lilliehammer, to learn the trade. He served three years; then worked as a journeymen until 1859, when he left his native land for America. He came directly to this county, and spent the summer at Coon Prairie, where he was employed in farm-

ing. In the fall, he went to Freeport, Ill., and worked at his trade. In 1861, he again visited Vernon county, and was married here July 20 to Marion O, daughter of Hans Hanson, who settled near Bloomingdale in 1855. He returned to Freeport with his bride and resumed work at his trade, remaining there until 1863, when he returned to Vernon county, and purchased a farm of Nels Hanson two and one-half miles from Bloomingdale. He lived there eight years, then traded his farm for a grist-mill at Bloomingdale. He carried on this mill until 1878, when he traded it for a farm on sections 25 and 26 of town 12 north, of range 4 west, embraced in the town of Kickapoo. There was a large frame barn on this farm and he has since completed the farm houses, and is now well provided with buildings. His farm now contains 202 acres of land, a portion of which is in the Kickapoo valley. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of nine children—Annie M., Minnie A., Olouf M., Marcus H., John A., Hans N., Hannah L., Ida A. and Charles Edwin. They are taking good care to educate their children. Their oldest daughter, Annie, is a teacher in the public schools.

Jedediah Demings is a prominent member of the Seventh Day Adventist denomination. He was born in Franklin Co., Vt., Nov. 6, 1826, and at the age of fifteen, suffered the loss of his mother. His father soon after removed to Illinois, and our subject was left to care for himself. He was employed on a farm in Vermont for two years, and then went to Essex Co., N. Y., where he found similar employment at $9 per month. In 1845 he went to Illinois and joined his father in McHenry county, where he remained two years. In 1847 he went to Wisconsin, and spent two years in Winnebago county. He then returned to his father's home in Illinois, going on foot, and walking the long journey of 136 miles in two and one-half days. His time was passed in Illinois and Wisconsin, until 1856, when he went to Minnesota, and located in Nicolet county, then on the frontier, and inhabited mostly by Indians. He remained there four years, and in 1860 came to Vernon county, and located a homestead on section 2, of town 11 north, of range 3 west, where he now has a pleasant home. Mr. Demings was married Feb. 17, 1856, to Adeline Gibbs, a native of Vermont. Mr. Demings was converted to the faith of the Seventh Day Adventist in Illinois, in 1850, and is the founder of that denomination in Vernon county. Mrs. Demings is also a member.

Charles E. Smith settled on his present farm in 1860. He is a native of the old Bay State, born sixteen miles from Boston, in Lincoln township, Middlesex county, Aug. 15, 1835. His early education was begun in the district school and completed in the Lawrence Academy, at Groton, Mass. When seventeen years of age, he went to Boston, engaging as clerk for an establishment there until 1856, when he started west to seek a home. He located at St. Peter, Nicolet Co., Minn., being one of the early settlers there. He lived there, on government land, until 1860, when he sold out, and as before stated, came to Vernon county. His farm is situated in the Kickapoo valley, on section 34, town 12, range 3. It is in a good state of cultivation, and he has erected a neat frame house thereon. Mr. Smith was married in 1860, to Ruth E. Gibbs, born in Vermont. They have had four children—Charles O., Fred L., Lucy A. and Myrtie M. Mr. Smith has been prominent in town and county affairs, and was assessor for several years.

B. C. Hutchison, one of the pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Pennsylvania, in January, 1818. He lived there until four years of age, when he removed to Ohio, settling in Richland county. He was there married to Matilda Hooks, who was born in Ohio. Thirteen children blessed this union, nine of whom are now living. In 1844 they came to Wisconsin, locating in Grant county. In 1849 he again sought a new home, settling in Franklin town,

Vernon county, where he purchased land, built a log house, living there six years. He then sold out, buying land on section 7, town 11, range 3, Kickapoo town. After residing there eight years, he again sold out and settled on section 9, his present home. Mrs. Hutchison died March 5, 1864.

William Hutchison, third son of B. C. and Matilda (Hooks) Hutchison, was born July 20, 1846, in Grant Co., Wis. His younger days were spent in school, and assisting his father on the farm. In January, 1864, he enlisted in company I, 17th Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south. He was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and participated in the many battles of that memorable campaign. He was discharged July 14, 1865, and returned home. In 1866 he was clerking for B. D. Hale, at Readstown, and later for A. P. Bliss. He was married in 1869 to Helen, daughter of Willard and Mary (Lotwridge) Morley, who was born in New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison have had five children—Mary, Albert, Sylvia, William and Walter. Soon after marriage he settled on a farm on section 36, town 12, range 4. In 1883 he bought property in Viroqua and removed there. He has been prominent in town affairs, and is the present assessor. He is also a mail contractor.

Lyman C. Drake, postmaster of Sugar Grove office, is a native of New York State. He was born in West Bloomfield town, Ontario county, April 29, 1813. When three years of age his parents moved to Leroy, Genesee county, where he grew to manhood. In 1838 he came to Wisconsin, locating at Plattsville, where he engaged in mining one year, then going to Ellenboro he bought land and engaged in farming. He remained in the vicinity of Ellenboro until 1862, when he traded his farm there for land at Sugar Grove, on section 13, town 11, range 3, Kickapoo town. He has since made this his home. Mr. Drake was married, in 1843, to Janette Russell, born in Connecticut. They have had five children, two of whom are living—Rutson H. and Frank H. Their first child, George L., born Sept. 3, 1844, enlisted in 1864 in company I, 17th Wisconsin Volunteers, and died in the service at Rome, Ga., in August, 1864. Lester was born Nov. 13, 1847. He enlisted in 1864 in company I, 17th Wisconsin Volunteers. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was killed by a guerilla, about twenty miles from Columbia, S. C., near the close of the war. Lewis was born June 20, 1860, and died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Drake are both members of the Disciple Church. Their son, Rutson, also a member, is superintendent of the Sunday school.

George Latta is a native of Ohio, born in Columbiana county, May 26, 1822. When ten years of age his parents moved to Perry county, where George grew to manhood, and where he was married, in 1844, to Thannel Snider. He bought a farm in Monroe town, remaining there until 1864, when he sold out, coming to Wisconsin, and settling on his present farm on section 26, town 12, range 4, Kickapoo town. It is in a good state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Latta have had nine children—Leanna, Edward, Nancy, Francis, Joseph, Matilda, David, Hannah and George. Mrs. Latta died in 1872, aged fifty-two years. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1875, was Harriet Delap.

Josiah Latta settled in Kickapoo town in 1866. He is a native of Ohio, born in Perry county May 22, 1836. His younger days were spent in school and at work on his father's farm. He was married in 1859 to Elizabeth Grier, born in Morgan Co., Ohio, after which he carried on a part of his father's farm in Perry county. He enlisted Jan. 1, 1862, in the 62d Ohio Volunteers, company C, and went south, serving until the expiration of his time and eight days over, being discharged Jan. 8, 1865. Among the many engagements in which he participated were the following: Winchester and the many battles of the Shenandoah valley. After

this campaign the regiment joined McClellan's command at Harrison's Landing. From there they went to Suffolk, Va., being on provost duty. After his discharge Mr. Latta returned to Perry county, remaining until 1866, when he came to Vernon county and purchased land on section 26, town 12, range 4. He has since improved his land, set out an orchard and built a large frame residence, now having one of the best farms and residences in the town. Mr. and Mrs. Latta have nine children—Thomas, Charles, Mary A., Lillie Maud, Nancy Estella, Albert P., Minnie B., Jessie Grace and William Orley. Mr. Latta's farm now contains 320 acres.

Benjamin Rogers settled in Vernon county in 1866. He was born Feb. 19, 1837, in Perry Co., Ohio, being there raised on a farm. He was married in 1859 to Elizabeth Ayers, born in Perry county. He enlisted in September, 1861, in company G, 18th Ohio Volunteers, and went south. He participated in the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga. He was wounded in the latter battle and laid up for three months, when he again joined the regiment, taking part in many other engagements. He was honorably discharged in the fall of 1864, and returned to Perry county. In 1866, as before stated, he came to Vernon county, purchasing eighty acres of land on section 36, town 12, range 4, Kickapoo town. He has since purchased more land, making a farm of 220 acres, improved the same, and built the frame house in which he now lives. His six children are—Rilla Belle, Benjamin, Rebecca, Parthenia, Hester Ann and Thomas Newton. The two latter are twins. A daughter, Mary Etta, died at seven years of age.

J. J. McCarty, town clerk, was born Jan. 7, 1856, in Missouri, coming to Kickapoo town, Vernon Co., Wis., in 1867. He received a liberal education in his younger days, and has, for a few years, been engaged as teacher in the public schools, having taught his first term when nineteen years of age, in school district No. 4. He was elected to his present office in 1877, being re-elected every year, until he is now serving his seventh term. In 1882 Mr. McCarty erected a building in Readstown, on the east side of the river, where he is engaged in business. He keeps a general stock, and has a good trade.

Lewis Anderson settled on his present farm in 1874. It is located on the ridge on section 1, town 11, range 4, and contains 155 acres. He is a native of Norway, born June 17, 1853. He came to America with his parents in 1864, settling in Clayton, Crawford county, where he received a liberal education in the public schools. He was married in 1874 to Melina Salmonson. Her parents were early settlers of Vernon county. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have three children —Annie, Martha and Emma. He has taken great interest in public affairs, and is a member of the town board, elected in April, 1883.

CHAPTER XLIII.

THE TOWN OF LIBERTY.

That part of Vernon county known as the town of Liberty, is situated in congressional township 12, range 3 west, and contains about twenty-four sections of land. It is bounded on the north by the town of Webster, on the east by Richland county, on the south by the town of Kickapoo, and on the west by the town of Viroqua. This town is watered by the Kickapoo river and its branches, which flow in a southerly direction. In the eastern part of the town there is a very heavy growth of timber, while in the western there are more prairie openings. One of the striking features of the town is its numerous springs which gush out from the sides of the high bluffs and rocky ridges, their water finally terminating in streams having sufficient fall to give fine mill power.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Among what may be termed the early settlers of the town of Liberty, are the following: G. W. Wise, Allen Rusk, George P. Martin, Jonas Groves, John R. Joseph, James Gilman, Samuel Graham, Samuel Fish, Stephen A. Fish, James Schoolery, James W. Hunter, John W. Church, Frederick Groves and Stanley Stout. The first settler was James Gilman, who settled on section 5, in 1853, where he lived for many years, and then moved to Viroqua, where he died.

In December, 1852, Allen Rusk, then a resident of Lancaster, Grant county, hauled a load of merchandise to Liberty Pole, for Henry McCaulley, who kept a store at the latter place. After delivering the goods, Mr. Rusk went to Viroqua to visit some of his old acquaintances who had settled there some time previous. While on this visit, accompanied by some of his friends, he started out to look up a location for his future home. They went east as far as the Kickapoo, then followed the stream down to the mouth of Bishop branch, and the latter stream back to Viroqua. Mr. Rusk did not select any particular piece of land at this time, but concluded that in the near future he would become a resident of the county. He then returned to Lancaster, and in October, 1853, removed his family to Viroqua. In the spring of 1854 he pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 16, town 12, range 3 west, of the fourth principal meridian and at once commenced improving the same but did not settle here until April, 1855. Allen Rusk is a brother of Gov. J. M. Rusk, and was born in Perry Co., Ohio, on the 6th day of February, 1825. When he was three years of age, the family removed to Morgan county, where the subject of this sketch received a common school education, helped till the soil, and also worked at plastering. Oct. 23, 1843, he married Mary Newton. She was born in Harrison Co., Va., Nov. 6, 1818. In 1852 he emigrated to Lancaster, Grant Co., Wis., from whence he came to Vernon county, as above stated. Mr. Rusk is a man of considerable natural ability, and no sooner had he settled in the county, than he was looked upon as a leading citizen. It was through his efforts that the territory in which he resides was set off from Viroqua, and organized as the town of Liberty. The name was suggested by Mr. Rusk, and at the first election he was elected chairman of the

town board and justice of the peace; he has since held various local offices, and for two terms represented his district in the Assembly. In 1880 he took the census of the town of Liberty, and is at present postmaster at Liberty Thus it can be seen that he possesses the confidence of his fellow men and is highly esteemed, which is far more desirable than riches. In September, 1864, he enlisted in company I, 42d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until mustered out of service, participating in all the engagements of his regiment. He is a republican in politics, to which party he has adhered since its organization. The children are—Henry M., Hannah Jane, deceased; Albert J., Jasper B., Jeremiah N. and Romulus A.

H. L. Turner was born in Erie Co., N. Y., on the 9th day of January, 1821. His parents being William and Sally Turner. The family removed to Wyoming county, where the father pursued his trade, that of a millwright. H. L. Turner soon became handy in the use of carpenter tools and concluded to become a first-class mechanic. But he was a poor boy. He thus worked on the farm, and whenever he had a little spare money, he would invest the same in the purchase of a book treating on mechanical works, and oft when his team was resting on the plow he could be seen busily engaged reading and studying. He also desired to travel, and so purchased a book on navigation, which he studied closely and soon became quite well versed in said science. The book is still in Mr. Turners library, and is highly cherished. In 1842 he married Sophia C. Drake, and then followed the trade of millwright. In 1850 he emigrated to Wisconsin, lived a short time at Lake Geneva, then at Lodi, but in 1851, returned to New York. In 1854, he again came to Wisconsin and entered land on the north half of section 24, range 3, town 12, at La Crosse, on the 11th day of April. Mr. Turner was accompanied on the trip by his brother, C. D. Turner and cousin, Jeremiah Turner, who also entered land. They all went back to New York. But H. L. at once returned and erected a log cabin on section 19, town 12, range 2 west of the fourth principal meridian, where he had also entered land, and in the fall of said year, removed his family, wife and two children from the east. They were also accompanied by his parents, William and Sally Turner, C. D. Turner and family, Salem Rogers, wife and two children, Lyman Jackson, wife and two children, all of whom settled in the vicinity of what is now Viola. In 1856 H. L. Turner erected a saw-mill, and one year later, added a grist-mill, which he operated until 1864, then sold to A. C. Cushman. In 1856 or 1857, Mr. Turner removed across the line into Vernon county, where he now resides. In 1865 he removed to Green Bay, where he was engaged in building steam boats and sailing vessels. He built six steam crafts, one sailing vessel and one yacht. In the fall of 1880, he returned to Vernon county, and now gives his attention to farming. His farm contains 170 acres, and is one of the best in the vicinity. There are about thirty Indian mounds located on the same. These mounds are of all sizes and shapes, resembling birds, animals, reptiles, etc. In politics, Mr Turner was formerly a whig, and since the organization of the republican party has associated with it. He has often been chosen to hold local offices, but he takes but little interest in this direction. The children, Alice S. and George W. are both deceased.

George W. Wise, one of the first settlers, was born in West Virginia, Dec. 11, 1833. His father died in 1842, and in 1849, the mother with her three children—George W., David and Melinda, emigrated to Wisconsin, and on the 12th of August of that year, arrived at Brookville, where they had relations. In 1855 Mr. Wise married Lucretia Jennings, and then settled on section 11, town 12, range 3, where he was still living in 1884. Mr. and Mrs Wise are the parents of twelve children—Mary E.,

Belle, Melissa, Alice, Elmer, Cora, Violet, Albert, Olive, David, Myrtie and William.

William C. Groves, son of Frederick and Harriet Groves was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Aug. 6, 1819. He is a millwright and carpenter by trade. In 1849 he married Mary Jane McCollough, daughter of Robert McCollough In 1855 they came to Wisconsin, and have since resided in town 12, range 3, Liberty. He now owns 120 acres. The children are—Harriet, Frederick M., John H. and Olive E. In politics, Mr. Groves is a greenbacker. He has been justice of the peace and a member of the town board. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

George P. Martin settled on section 9 in 1855 where he remained until 1881 and then removed to Nebraska.

Jonas Groves also settled in 1855 on section 5, where he still lives.

John R. Joseph settled on section 9 in 1855. He remained there about fifteen years and moved to Iowa. He was a native of Ohio, from which State he came to Wisconsin.

Another settler of 1855 was John W. Hunter. who settled on section 16 and remained until death, which overtook him in 1872.

Among the pioneers of 1856 was James Schooley, who settled on section 16. He removed to Kansas just before the Rebellion broke out, but afterwards returned to Liberty town; but still later returned to Kansas.

Samuel Graham settled on section 6 in 1855, where he tilled the soil for a number of years and removed to Colorado, where he was engaged in the hotel business in 1884.

Samuel Fish settled on section 8 in 1855. He enlisted in company C, 18th Wisconsin Infantry, was wounded at Shiloh and died from its effects soon after. In 1884 his widow, Nancy Fish, was still living on the land pre-empted by her husband.

About the same time or a little later Stephen A. Fish, father of Samuel Fish, came to the county for settlement and died some years after.

John W. Church came to Vernon county from New York. After a short stay in Richland county, he settled on the southwest corner of section 12 in 1855–6. He was a good mechanic and followed the carpenter's trade until the civil war broke out, when he enlisted in company A, 25th Wisconsin; was wounded during a battle in South Carolina and died from its effects. He was a brave soldier and a good man. He was accounted one of the best marksmen in his company and it was often remarked by his comrades that upon the discharge of his gun there was one less rebel to fight! Just before his fatal wound he was seen climbing over the earthworks and was told by Col. Rusk that he was in great danger; but Church replied: "Just let me drop one more of them!"

William Turner was a native of New York and married Sally Ingalls in that State. He was a millwright and carpenter by trade. He came to Wisconsin with his son to assist him in building mills. Mr. Turner died April 1, 1865, and his wife eleven years later. They were both buried in the cemetery at Viroqua.

Stanley Stout is a native of Erie Co., N. Y., born July 12, 1832. He learned the drug business in the city of Buffalo and subsequently served as drug clerk in Chicago and St. Louis. In 1857 he concluded to try country life for awhile and so came to Wisconsin and first stopped with his brother-in-law, John W. Church, who resided on section 12, of what is now Liberty town. In 1858 he married Eliza Groves, daughter of Frederick Groves, since which he has been a resident of Liberty. He has, however, at several different intervals clerked at La Crosse and Viroqua. He now resides on section 3 and owns eighty acres with good improvements. Mr. Stout is a well informed and enterprising citizen. He enlisted in the United States service, but was rejected on account of physical disability. In politics he is republican. Has held the offices of chairman, assessor and

treasurer. He is a good talker and for many years has acted as auctioneer. The children are—Adelaide, William, McDowell, Rowena, Minnie, George A., Frank and Julia.

R. H. Buchanan, on the 12th day of October, 1859, arrived at Springville and resided near there until 1862, then settled on section 2, Liberty, where he had entered land in 1855 and he still resides on the same. He was born in Washington Co., Penn., April 22, 1824. In 1828 the family removed to Muskingum county, where R. H. was raised to farm life. Feb. 11, 1847, he married Mary Reed, daughter of Ellis and Margaret Reed, and in 1859 came to Wisconsin. Mrs. Buchanan died Feb. 2, 1882. She had eight children, five now living—Sarah M., David T., Ardo, William H. and James M. In politics he is a democrat and has held the offices of town clerk, assessor and collector

Cincinnatus Ward was born in Connecticut in 1804. He removed with his parents to New York and there married Loisa A. Wooster. About the close of the civil war they came to Wisconsin. Mrs. Ward died in 1873 and Mr. Ward now resides with his son, Newton D., who is the youngest of the children. He was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Nov. 22, 1845, removed with his parents to Erie county, where he resided until 1864, then came to Wisconsin and first stopped at Viola, where his sister, Mrs. C. D. Turner, was living. He clerked in a store for some time and in 1863 enlisted in the 25th Wisconsin, but was rejected on account of his age, he being but seventeen. In January, 1864, he enlisted in the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry and served until the regiment was mustered out of service. He then returned to Viola and in 1869 married Sarah A. Brown, daughter of Abner Brown. He then removed to Du Page Co., Ill., and subsequently to Missouri. In 1873 he returned to Wisconsin and studied and practiced veterinary surgery for five years with John F. White, in Kenosha, since which time he has practiced at Viola. He is a republican and is at present town clerk. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and G. A. R. Mr. and Mrs. Ward have one daughter—Julia M.

EARLY EVENTS.

The first birth in the town of Liberty was J. N., a son of Allen and Mary Rusk, born Oct. 28, 1855.

The first death was a child of George P. Martin, who died in 1856, and the remains were buried on their farm on section 9. The same grounds were afterward selected for the town cemetery.

The first marriage in the town was Sanford Hanchett and Ann Harris, who were united in matrimony in 1855 by Allen Rusk, then justice of peace.

Another marriage which occurred about the same date, was that of Johnson Fuller and Sarah Graves. This couple had to present themselves to Robert Wilson, a justice of the peace, who performed the ceremony under a large oak tree near the Indian mounds around which there hangs so much of mystery.

ORGANIC.

Liberty, the smallest town in Vernon county, was last to be organized. It was formerly a part of Viroqua town; but on account of being so far from the village of Viroqua, the people chose to be set off into a separate organization, which was done in 1858; Allen Rusk presenting a petition, signed by many of the citizens, to the county board, requesting them to set off sections 1 to 24 inclusive, of township 12, range 3 west, into a civil town and that its name should be Liberty. The name was suggested by Mr. Rusk, presenter of the petition. The board granted the request, and accordingly an election was held April 6, 1858, at the school house on section 9, the former residence of George P. Martin. The following officers were elected: Allen Rusk, chairman, Samuel Graham and George P. Martin, supervisors; Samuel C. Fish, town clerk; John R. Joseph, treasurer; Allen Rusk and Samuel Graham, justices of the peace. Officers of 1883: D. B. Sommars, chairman, Robert Tate and M. Wilkinson,

supervisors; N. D. Ward, clerk; Allen Rusk, assessor; W R. Snead, justice of the peace and F. V. Bryson, constable.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the town of Liberty was held in a building formerly used by George P. Martin as a residence. It was located on section 9. Emily Clauson was the teacher.

In 1884 the town had four school buildings. At this date a part of the scholars of the town attended the schools located in other towns, which had joint districts with Liberty.

RELIGIOUS.

In an early day the Methodist Episcopal denomination formed a class, which in 1884, belonged to the Liberty Pole circuit.

The United Brethren sect also organized a Church, some time after the war, and continued to keep up regular services till about 1878.

These two are the only religious organizations ever perfected within the town.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884 there were two cemeteries within the town of Webster, both being situated on section 9. The oldest of these is the one located near the pioneer residence of George P. Martin. The first burials in this cemetery were two children of Mr. and Mrs. Martin. The second burrying place is on the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 9.

LIBERTY POSTOFFICE.

A postoffice was established at the residence of John R. Joseph, in 1859 or 1860; his wife acting as postmistress. She was followed by Mrs. M. J. Wolford, who was succeeded by Mrs. M. A. Davis. Then Mrs. Wolford was again appointed, and in time was succeeded by Allen Rusk, who was postmaster in 1884. This office has always been kept at the house of the person receiving the appointment of postmaster, or postmistress, and for this reason, has been styled "the office on wheels," but it has always gone by the name of Liberty, and has served well the needs of the people who have lived in that vicinity.

MILLS.

The first mill erected in the town of Liberty, was a saw mill, built by H. L. Turner, in 1856, which was located on section 24, and was furnished with power by the waters of the Kickapoo river. In 1857 Mr. Turner added a grist mill, the machinery of which he purchased in Buffalo, N. Y. He operated this mill till 1864, when he sold to A. C. Cushman, who operated the combined saw and flouring mill until 1879, when he built another mill, known as the Viola Mills. This mill was built a few rods down stream from the site of the old one. It is a wooden building, 32x48 feet, and is three stories high. It contains four run of stone. The river furnishes a head of six feet, which gives ample propelling power for the necessary machinery of the mill. This property is valued at $20,000 including the saw mill, which was still in operation in 1884.

Another early saw mill was put in operation by William C. Groves, on section 4, which continued a number of years.

THE MOUNDS.

There are a number of Indian mounds, a minute description of which is given elsewhere in this work, within this town. There are to be seen about forty of these peculiar mounds, on section 24. They represent animals of the larger species, birds, reptiles etc., and are surrounded with no little mystery and curiosity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Personal mention is made of the following named prominent citizens:

Robert and John Tate, two natives of Fort Wayne, Ind., accompanied their parents to this county in 1854. Robert was born Nov. 28, 1839, and was but fifteen years old when he came into the county. The father had entered land on section 18, and in 1862, Robert homesteaded 160 acres on section 23. He has since lived on this land, and has increased it by a purchase of twenty acres. In 1864 he enlisted in company

I, 42d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until he was honorably discharged, in 1865. Mr. Tate has served his fellow citizens as town treasurer and constable, also as treasurer of his school district. Mr. Tate married Pruda Downey, of Vernon county, and of their six children, four are living—Margaret, wife of Harmon D. Jennings; Mary, wife of Joseph S. Bond; Estella and Charles. John Tate was born at Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1851, and was therefore only three years of age when his parents came to Vernon county. He owns forty acres of land on section 22. Mr. Tate was united in marriage, in 1870, to Esther Amanda Philpot. They have six children—William S., James W., Laura A., David O., Owen B. and Ida M.

John H. Vumback, a native of Wolfeushausen, Germany, was born in 1827, and emigrated to the United States in 1850. He first settled in Cook Co., Ill., where he remained five years. In 1855 removed to Crawford Co., Wis., and one year later, (1856), came to Vernon county and settled 120 acres of land, on section 22, town 12 north, of range 3 west. Mr. Vumback was married, in 1853, to Elizabeth Amos, who was born in Byron, Germany, in 1829. They have seven children—Henry, who married Jeanette Cass; Conrad, who married Rosa Goer; John, Mary, wife of Edward Spitzer; Sophia, wife of Joseph Maple; Minnie and Philip.

Lemuel S. Rabbitt, a native of the "old Dominion," settled in Liberty town, in 1864. He was born in Hancock Co., Va., in 1827, and in 1854 was married at Carrollton, Carroll Co., Ohio, to Elizabeth E. Blazer. In 1855 he removed his family to Richland Co., Wis., where he resided nine years. Mr. Rabbitt then came to Liberty town, and purchased of John Bryan 160 acres of well improved land on sections 23 and 24. Mr. Rabbitt has been chairman of the town board of supervisors for the past two years. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rabbitt, six of whom are living—Sanford, Anna, Lemuel E., John, George and Jasper. Sanford was married to Lucinda McCarty, April 6, 1882. They have one son—Roy. Mrs. Lucinda Rabbitt, wife of Sanford, is a native of Morgan Co., Ohio. Sanford was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio. Mrs. Elizabeth Rabbitt, wife of L. S. Rabbitt, was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, Feb. 29, 1829, (leap year).

Robert Storer was born in 1831 in Muskingum Co., Ohio. He there received a common school education, and when he was sixteen years of age he went to Perry Co., Ohio, where he remained till the year 1865, and then came to Vernon Co., Wis. He settled near Viroqua, and remained there two years, and then he came to the town of Liberty and purchased a farm of 160 acres on section 5, which he now owns. Mr. Storer was united in marriage to Mary Orrison, in 1857. They are the parents of eight children—John F., Celia A., William, George, Charles, Austin, Emma and Wilbert. The following named children are married: John F., to Catherine Wilson, and Celia to David Buchanan.

Joseph S. Bond, farmer, although quite young, is nevertheless one of the pioneers of the town of Liberty. He is a native of Pennsylvania, and was but two years old when his parents removed to Richland Co., Wis. In 1869 they located in Liberty town, the father purchasing 120 acres of land on sections 12 and 23. Joseph S. now owns this land with an additional forty acres purchased subsequently. He was married in 1882 to Mary, daughter of Robert and Pruda (Downey) Tate. Mrs. Bond was born in Vernon county in 1865. Mr. Bond's father, Richard H. Bond, is a native of England, where he was born in 1820. He emigrated to the United States in 1844, and made his first permanent settlement in Richland Co., Wis. In 1852 he removed to Vernon county, and now owns eighty acres of land on section 24, in this town. He was married in Pennsylvania, in 1843, to Susannah Sutton. They had two children—Mary and Joseph.

H. A. Curry. who resides on section 21, was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1845. His father, William Curry, was born in Virginia in 1808, and settled in Ohio about 1831, and there died in 1878. His wife still survives, and resides with her son William, in Ohio, at the advanced age of seventy-one years. In 1870 Mr. Curry removed to Vernon Co., Wis., and purchased 360 acres of land in the town of Liberty, of M. Longstroth. He has reduced the size of his farm to 190 acres. He was elected a justice of the peace in 1878, and served one term. Mr. Curry wes married in Clinton Co., Ohio, in 1868, to Elizabeth Starbuck. They have three children—Edgar, Charles and Guy. Mrs. Curry's father, Jonathan Starbuck, was born in Clinton Co., Ohio, in 1825, and died in Virginia at the age of thirty-two years. Her mother was born in 1827 and died in Ohio at the age of forty-seven years.

Mons. S. Wilkinson was born in 1848 in Norway, and emigrated to America in 1858. He first settled in Crawford Co., Wis., and in 1874 he came to the town of Liberty. He married Anna Lee, who was also born in Norway, in 1848. She came to the United States in 1868. They have had born to them two children—Wilbert C. and Bertha J. Mr. Wilkinson does not own any real estate in the county at present, having just sold his farm, which consisted of eighty acres on section 18, where he still resides. Mr. Wilkinson contemplates purchasing another farm on the same section.

Elizabeth Wigdahl was born in Norway in 1818, and came to the United States in 1864. She settled in the town of Christiana, where she lived until 1878, when she removed to the town of Liberty, and bought of John Erikson 160 acres of land on section 19, where she now resides. Mrs. Wigdahl was married in Norway, in 1844, to Peter Wigdahl, who died in Vernon county on the 27th day of July, 1880. Mrs. Wigdahl has five living children—Mary, Betsey, Emma, Anna and Sarah. Hans is deceased. Mary is the wife of Hans Vomburg; Betsey married Nels Swigan; Sarah joined fortunes with Robert Robertson, and Anna is now a widow with three children.

CHAPTER XLIV.

THE TOWN OF STARK.

Stark is bounded on the north by the town of Whitestown, on the east by Union, on the south by Richland county, and on the west by the town of Webster. Its territory comprises township 13, range 2 west. The Kickapoo river flows through the town, entering its domain on section 3, and leaves from section 31, into the town of Webster. This stream furnishes a good water power on section 20, which is well utilized. The Kickapoo has several small tributaries taking their rise in different parts of the town. Among these are Jug creek and Weister creek. The former comes in from the town of Union and unites on section 3; the latter enters from Whitestown and makes a confluence with the main stream on section 9. Bear creek also flows from Union town and empties into the river proper on section 29, where another fine water power is obtainable. Otter creek, another little creek, flows from the town of Webster and joins the river on section 29. These streams are spring brooks, of the purest water and are perfectly clear; many of them contain fish. While the topography of this town, in common with that of the entire county is quite broken and hilly, yet it is as good a farming section as Vernon county affords.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The earliest settlement in the town of Stark was made in 1853, by the following: Chauncy W. Lawton, who came from Kickapoo Center and settled on section 20.

John H. Anderson, a native of Scotland, came in the spring of the year and entered land on section 20, which included the water power.

Among the few that came in during 1854, was P. Orrison, who entered land on section 20, for his father, and on section 17 for himself. He remained on his land about ten years and moved into the town of Webster, where he purchased a mill. In 1884 he resided at Viroqua.

Jesse Orrison, father of P. Orrison, came in 1854, from Perry Co., Ohio, and located on section 20, where he remained till the time of his death in 1862; his wife died in 1880.

Emery Lockie, a native of Virginia, settled in the town, on the northeast quarter of section 36, in 1854, where he resided until 1857, and removed to Missouri, where he was afterward killed by his son, who led a band of Confederate guerillas.

In 1855, Henry Smith, of Ohio, settled on section 19.

Eli McVey settled in the town in 1854, on land near Rockton.

John B. Lease came in from Greene county, in 1855, and located on the northwest quarter of section 36, where he lived till 1877, when he sold out and moved to Turner Co., D. T.

Peter Smith, of New Jersey, came in 1855, from near Viroqua, and settled on section 9, where he remained till his death in June, 1880.

Benjamin Bahr and Adam Bryan, also settled in 1855, the former on section 2, and the latter on section 3, where they improved their lands and remained till 1875, when they sold and in 1884, were living in Laporte, Iowa.

Thomas De Jean came from New York to Waukesha county, but soon removed to section 29, Stark town. He arrived some time during the spring or summer of 1855; having entered land, however, in 1853. He erected a saw-mill and a little later built a grist-mill. He died in 1877; his wife still lives on the homestead.

George Walts was another settler of 1855; he settled on section 2, where he cleared up a farm. He remained there until 1861, when he sold and went to Michigan. In 1884 he was living at Laporte, Iowa, where he was engaged in the mercantile business.

Elliot Benson, a native of Massachusetts, came from Greene Co., Wis., in 1855, and settled on section 35, where he remained until 1879, when he sold and moved west.

David Simons, of Ohio, settled on the northwest quarter of section 26, in 1855. He remained five or six years and moved to Nebraska, and in 1884, was living in Oregon.

E. Dalton, of Maryland, came in 1855 and settled on section 5, where he still resided in 1884.

Among the settlers of 1856 were: Joseph R. Bean, E. Potter, Joseph Parker and John Barge. Joseph R. Bean came from Virginia, to Jo Daviess Co., Ill., and in 1856, came to the southeast quarter of section 24, Stark town. Afterward he moved to Union town, where he died in 1868.

E. Potter removed from Vermont to Grant Co., Wis., and from there to this county, in 1856. He located on section 24, where he was still living in 1884.

Joseph Parker was a native of Kentucky, who came from Illinois and settled on section 35, where he still resided in 1884.

John Barge, a German, came in the summer of 1856, and settled on section 12.

George and William White, who were natives of England, settled on the northeast quarter of section 26, where they made some improvements. In the fall of 1857 they went to the Black river region. George was a Mormon preacher, and said to have been a very able man.

Samuel W. Gray, a native of New York State, came from Grant Co., Wis., in the fall of 1857, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 26, where he was still living in 1884.

EARLY EVENTS.

One of the earliest marriages in the town was Henry Malier and Mary Bahr, in the winter of 1855–6. They were married at Viroqua; and their home was on section 2, where he died a number of years ago. His widow married again and lives at Laporte, Iowa.

Oscar, son of E. and Lydia (Smith) Dalton, was one of the first children, if not the first born in the town. His birth occurred June 20, 1855.

ORGANIC.

The town of Stark was set off from the town of Union in November, 1858, and the first election for town officers held at the house of Morrison Wilson, in April, 1859. No records are preserved of the first few town meetings, hence the first officers are here, necessarily omitted. The following were the officers of 1883: Troy Evans, chairman of the board of supervisors; I. D. Nixon, assessor; James Cathers, treasurer; W. H. Norris, clerk.

SCHOOLS.

In 1884 the town of Stark contained seven school houses which were located in districts known as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, joint district Nos. 8, and 10.

In district No. 1 the first school was upon the subscription plan and was taught in 1860, by Mrs. Jesse Orrison, in her son's house. In 1861 a log school building was erected on the line of sections 16 and 17. Laura Evans was the first teacher employed in this building. This building was burned in 1864, and school was then held in a house which belonged to Payton Orrison. In 1866 a frame building was erected on the southeast quarter of section 17. Lizzie Stimble was the first to teach in this new building.

District No. 2 was provided with a school house in 1857, which was located on the southeast quarter of section 5. This was a log building. Mary Clausen was the first teacher. A new house was built in 1874, on the southwest quarter of section 5, in which Belle Robinson taught the first term of school.

The first school house in district No. 3 was built in 1857; this was a log house located on the northwest quarter of section 30. Matilda Shell taught the first term of school. Afterward a frame house was built, which stood on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 29. Mrs. Ingram taught the first school in this building.

District No. 4, more commonly known as "Jug Creek School," had its first term of school in a log house built by a few of the neighbors, on the southwest quarter of section 2. The first school was held in the winter of 1857-8. This house served a few years, when a hewed log house was erected on the old site, in which Anson W. DeJean taught the first school. In 1876 a frame house was built and furnished after the more modern style. This building was located on the northwest quarter of section 11. Thomas Smith taught first in this building.

The first school house in district No. 5 was erected in 1859; it was a log building located on the southwest quarter of section 24. Cornelius Weeden was the first teacher in this house. In 1866 another log building took the place of the one of pioneer days; this was situated on the southeast quarter of section 23.

Joint district No. 8 had its first school building erected in 1858—a log house located on the northwest quarter of section 35. Harriet E. Cox was the first teacher. In 1881 a frame house was erected near the site of the old one. Jacob Potts was the first teacher in the new building.

District No. 10 was organized in 1871. A stone building was purchased of A. W. Sprague. Alice Seeley, afterward wife of Ed. Nixon, taught the first school. In 1874 another building was provided, which was located on the north bank of the river, near the center of section 20. Kate West was the first teacher.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Religous services were held in the log school house on section 2 as soon as it was completed, by the Evangelical Association. A class was formed with about twenty members, among whom were: George Walsh and wife, John Barger and wife, Adam Bryan wife and two daughters, Joseph Fulmer and wife and Francis Lawton and wife. Adam Bryan was chosen the first class leader. Rev. Sater was among the first ministers. He was killed in the Indian massacre in Minnesota in 1862. This society met at the log school house until within a few years, but now meet at Rockton.

In 1867 the first Methodist Episcopal meetings were held in the school house on section 17. Rev. C. N. Cunningham was the first preacher. He organized a class in the winter of 1867–68 with about eighteen members, among whom were: Samuel Smith and wife, Dempster Seeley and wife, Irving Nixon and wife, William H. Bacon wife and daughter, Lizzie Stimble, Adelia Farnham, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barton, John Dyer, Emma Dyer, Cynthia Moore and Mary M. Miller. Irving C. Nixon was chosen class leader. This class continued to worship in the school house till 1871, when a church building was erected on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20. This goes by the name of Star Chapel. A sabbath school was formed in connection with this class in 1868. I. C. Nixon was the first superintendent. The school in 1884 had an average attendance of about thirty-five scholars.

Another Methodist Episcopal class was formed in 1875 by Rev. Bradley at the new school house on Jug creek. John Barge and wife, Adam Bryan and wife; Mrs. G. W. Wiseman and John Barge were among the members of this class, and Mr. Barge was chosen class leader.

The United Brethren formed a class in the hewed log school house on section 2, just prior to the Rebellion. Rev. Himes was the first preacher The class numbered about twenty-five. In 1884 Rev. Alderman was pastor for this denomination.

There was Baptist services conducted at the house of John B. Lease, in 1857, by John Crandall, a Baptist clergyman, who organized a society of this denomination, which was known as Bethel Church. They built a church in 1877 on section 28, in which Rev. Sliter was the first to preach. In 1884 the society held no regular services on account of numerous removals.

CEMETERIES.

This town has two cemeteries within its borders, both on the same section. One on the northwest quarter of section 20 and the other on the southeast quarter of section 20.

THE VILLAGE OF STAR.

Star is the proper name for this village; however, outside of a radius of ten miles it is known as "Seeleyburg," after Dempster Seeley. R. S. Moore, county surveyor of Vernon county, platted this village in 1867, for C. W. Lawton. It is on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20.

C. W. Lawton built the first house in the place, in 1859, on the north side of the river; but in 1861, he moved it across the river to where the village now stands. Mr. Lawton also built the first store in 1863.

Joseph McHenry put in a small stock of goods, which he continued to traffic in until 1870.

A. W. Sprague, from Rhode Island, erected a building and opened up a store, which he operated for six months, then returned to Rhode Island. His store was sold for a school house. In 1874 Joseph Cowan and H. H. Wyatt formed a partnership and rented the Sprague building, which Dempster Seeley bought of the school district. This store was burned out and Mr. Seeley erected another building on the same spot and Mr. Wyatt run a general store there for four months, when this building was burned and Mr. Wyatt moved to Viroqua. Mr. Seeley again rebuilt and H. C. Millard opened up a stock of goods and continued two years, being succeeded by Obadiah Driskal, who lost his stock by fire in 1883.

Dempster Seeley erected a saw mill on the east branch of the Kickapoo river in 1863. This was a frame building, 25x50 feet, and employed a circular saw. In 1870 he added a shingle and planing mill, and in 1879 the whole was destroyed by fire. He again put up a building, 50x90 feet, in which is operated a shingle mill, planing mill, turning lathe and rotary saw mill.

Thomas DeJean built a saw mill on the east bank of the East Kickapoo river, in 1857. A log and brush dam was thrown across the stream, which gave him a fall of seven feet. In 1863 he sold a half interest to his son, Anson W. In 1865 they put in a rotary saw, and in 1873 quit the lumber business and built a small grist mill, furnished with three run of stone. After Thomas DeJean's death the mill was operated by his son, Anson W.

A postoffice was established in 1859 and Thomas DeJean made postmaster. He kept the office at his house on section 29. In 1861 C. W. Lawton became postmaster and moved the office to his house on section 20. He was still holding the office in 1884, having had charge of it continuously, except one year when Anson DeJean held it. Robert Parker is now deputy and keeps the office at his store.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

There is no class of citizens so richly deserving of praise, respect and esteem as the pioneer settlers; and too often even this is denied them. It is the aim of the historian of this chapter to give a few lines to the honored pioneers and their descendants, due them on account of being instrumental in "clearing up" and developing this new and beautiful soil.

Chauncey W. Lawton came to Vernon county in 1854, and entered land on section 1, town 11, range 3 west, Kickapoo town. He built a log cabin and cleared about twelve acres of land. In 1858 he traded that for a place in town 13, range 3. He then came to Stark town and rented a farm on section 29, for one year. He then traded his farm in Kickapoo town for one on section 20, Stark town, and built a house on the north bank of the river, which he moved, in 1860, to the south bank. In 1865 he built the large frame house in which he now lives. In 1867 he platted the village of Star Mr. Lawton was born June 27, 1825, in Great Valley, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., where he grew to manhood, receiving a liberal education in the district and high school. When nineteen years of age, he entered the office of Angel & Fox with whom he studied law two years. In 1846 he came to Wisconsin, locating in Waukesha, where he remained one year, then returned to New York State, remaining until 1854, at which time he came to Vernon county, as before stated. He continued his study of law in this county, and, in 1859, was admitted to the bar at Viroqua. Mr. Lawton has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married Sept. 2, 1851, was Mirian F. Dyer. Three children blessed this union—Clarence, Alice and Ulysses. Mrs. Lawton died March 21, 1871. He again married, Aug. 3, 1872, Jemima Dowell, a native of Scotland. They have three children—Caroline, William and Alexander. Mr. Lawton was appointed postmaster of the Star office, in 1861, and holds the office at the present time. He has been prominent in county and town affairs. He has served as county commissioner, and for several years has held the office of justice of the peace. Mr. Lawton was a soldier in the Union army during the late war, and was with Sherman during that memorable march to the sea.

Eli McVey, an early explorer of the Kickapoo valley, was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, Dec. 7, 1832, and there he spent his younger days, in school, and on the farm. In 1854 he came to Wisconsin, and visited Vernon county. In the winter he engaged in lumbering in the Kickapoo pineries, and in the summer in rafting lumber down the river, being thus occupied for three successive summers, after which he engaged in breaking prairie. In October, 1861, he enlisted in company I, 12th Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea; also, participated in the many battles and skirmishes in that memorable campaign. He was discharged in August, 1865, and returning to Vernon county, purchased wild land on section 3, Stark town, and engaged in farming. He has since built the frame house in which he lives, and a frame barn 30x40 feet. In 1878 he purchased eighty acres of land on section 33, Whitestown town, and has since improved a part of that. Mr. McVey was married, in 1867, to Caroline Bryan, by whom he has had four children—Sherman, Agnes, Ella and William.

Hiram, son of Jesse and Mary (Gheen) Orrison, pioneer of Vernon county, was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, April 18, 1834. When he was quite young, his parents removed to Perry county, where he grew to manhood. He was but twenty years of age when his parents came to Bad Ax county. He made his home with them in Stark, and went to Franklin in 1858, and there bought a tract of land. He made some improvements on the land and lived there two years; then sold. He was married in 1863, to Mary Parr, and bought a farm in the town of Webster, and lived there until 1866, when he came to Stark and bought the farm he now occupies on section 7. They have four children—Sarah Almeda, John A., Minnie C. and Francis W.

John H. Anderson, an early explorer of the Kickapoo valley, and a pioneer settler of Stark town, is a native of Scotland, born in Glasgow, Nov. 14, 1826. When fourteen years of age he left home and went to sea; sailed two years before the mast and then came to the United States, stopping first in Maine and spending

some time in Portland; thence to Biddeford and other places. In Saco he was employed for one year in a brick yard. He then visited New Haven, New York and Philadelphia, and spent a winter in Lancaster, Penn., where he was employed teaming. From there he went to Washington county, where he remained till the fall of 1849, then went to Adams Co., Ill., spending the winter near Quincy, being employed in chopping wood. In the spring of 1850 he came to Wisconsin, spending the summer at Spring Green Prairie, Sauk county. In the fall he visited Richland county, and was employed in getting out lumber to build the Hazelton saw mill, the first one in that county. Late that fall he went to work in the pineries, and from that time until 1855 was employed in getting out lumber and rafting it down the Kickapoo river. While so doing he became acquainted with the localities and also with the few settlers along the river. He settled in 1855 on section 20, town 13, range 2 west, now known as Stark town, Vernon county. He built a cabin on the west bank of the east fork of the Kickapoo river, and there lived a single man for five years. Mr. Anderson was married Feb. 7, 1860, to Lucy McHenry. One child blessed this union—Nancy Elizabeth. At the time of his marriage he owned a farm house on the brow of the hill, which he now makes his home. For the past few years his health has not been good, and not being able to farm has turned his attention to bees and has started an apiary. His wife was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Wallace) McHenry, born in Ohio. Her parents settled in Webster in 1857. Her father died in 1865; her mother in 1882.

Philip Aumock was born in Perry Co., Ohio, June 17, 1827, and was reared on a farm till fifteen years of age. He then learned the carpenter trade, and was married on the 29th day of January, 1846, to Eleanor Dusenberry, also a native of Perry Co., Ohio. Soon after marriage Mr. Aumock engaged in the cabinet business, which he followed until the fall of 1855: then with a team of two horses and wagon, loaded up his family and started for the west, and after thirty-two day's travel landed in Bad Ax (now Vernon) Co., Wis., and pre-empted the north one-half of the northwest quarter of section 17, town 13 north, of range 2 west. He built a log cabin in which he lived until 1867, then erected a frame house, in which he now lives. He also built a good frame barn in 1870, and has cleared up quite a large farm. He has worked a good deal of his time at his trade, and is now the owner of 160 acres of land, don't owe one cent in the world, and is well and comfortably situated. At the time of Rebellion he enlisted in the 43d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served his country until the war closed. He then returned home. His first wife died shortly after his arrival home, of nervous prostration brought on by his absence. About the 1st of February, 1866, he went back to Ohio, and on the 4th day of March was married to Mrs. Mary Ann Essington, and brought her home with him, and they are now living happily together. He had a family of nine children, all of which are dead except four. Two of them are married and two are single. Mary E. married Perry A. Brown; John Wesley married Mary A. Thomas; George Washington and Hannah R. are still single. The boys own a good farm each and are out of debt.

Adam Bryan, one of the early settlers of Stark town, was born in Forks, Lycoming Co., Penn., June 11, 1817. His father was a clothier by trade, and was also engaged in the lumber business and in farming. Adam's early days were spent in school, in assisting his father on the farm and in the saw mill. The first school which he attended, was nine miles distant from his home. When twenty-one years of age, he entered a woolen mill and there learned to manufacture woolen goods. He was married March 2, 1843, to Mary Barge, born in Lycoming county, Aug. 3, 1825. He continued to work in the woolen factory until 1848, when he engaged in the lumber business, which he

followed until 1851, when he started west to seek a home. He located in Illinois, purchasing a farm in Jo Daviess county. In May, 1854, he came to Wisconsin. Taking the cars to Warren, he there procured a team, took the overland route to Vernon county. He stopped but a short time then returned to Illinois, remaining until May, 1855. He then came to Vernon county, entering land on section 3, town 13, range 2, now known as Stark town, then returned to Illinois for his family. In June, the family started for their new home, George Walsh and family accompanying them. After taking the cars to Warren, Ill., they started with ox teams. In many places they had to cut a road. Arriving on his land, he moved into a lumberman's log cabin and lived there three years, then built a hewed log house, to which he has since made a frame addition and in which he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan have had six children—Caroline, born March 16, 1848, was married to Eli McVey, and died Jan. 1, 1876; Alexander J., now in Sioux Falls, Dak., engaged in farming; George H., a grain dealer at Viroqua; Albert T., a physician in Eagan, Dak.; Aaron R., an attorney at law, in Sioux City; and Henrietta. Mr. Bryan united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, when a young man, but failing in his efforts to organize a class in Stark, he united with the German Evangelical and later with the United Brethren.

Thomas De Jean, one of the pioneers of Stark town, was born in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., in 1806, and there grew to manhood. He was a natural mechanic, and when a young man, he went to Pennsylvania and there worked in a saw mill for nine years. He then moved to Ohio, locating in Maumee City, where he was an early settler. While there he took contracts for building warehouses and docks on the canal, and later, engaged in farming. In 1841 he came to Wisconsin, locating at New Berlin, Waukesha county. After remaining there one year he went to Genesee, same county, bought land and built a saw mill, also running a blacksmith shop and plow factory. In 1855 he sold out there and came to Vernon county, settling on section 29, town 13, range 2, now known as Stark town. Two years later, he built a saw mill, in 1873 a grist mill, and also engaged in farming. He erected a large frame house and made this his home until his death, which occurred February, 1877. He was very enterprising and took a prominent part in town affairs. He was elected town assessor in 1856, and later, held other offices. Mr. De Jean married Polly Butterfield, also a native of Chautauqua Co., N. Y. She is still living on the old homestead. There were three children, two of whom are now living—Anson W., the eldest, is now living near, and owns an interest in the flouring mill; Alfred H., is also living near, on a farm; Ann C., who became the wife of William Sanbers, in the year 1861, and resided in this and an adjoining county, until 1879, removed with her husband and four children, to Roseburg, Oregon, where she died the year following.

Anson W. De Jean was born in Maumee City, Ohio, Feb. 25, 1838. His younger days were spent in school and assisting his father in the mill and on the farm. He was employed for a while as teacher in the public schools of Vernon county. He was married in 1862 to Juliet Potter, born in Collin's Center, Erie Co., N. Y. He then settled on section 29, on land which his father had entered for him in 1855. In 1863 he erected a building on section 29, and engaged in mercantile business, which he has followed ever since. In 1864 he bought an interest in his father's saw-mill, and in 1873 was associated with him in the building of a flour mill, which Anson W. now operates. He has been engaged for some years in farming, and at one time owned 1,100 acres of land in this county. He now owns but 320 acres in Vernon county, and a quarter section in Murray Co., Minn. Mr. and Mrs. De Jean had but one child—Charles, who clerks in his father's store. Mr. De Jean has taken a prominent

part in town and county affairs, and has filled offices of trust the greater part of his time since he attained the age of twenty-one years. His first, and all his voting has been done in the town in which he now lives.

John Barge settled in Vernon county, in 1856. He is a native of Germany, born in Wurtemburg, Oct. 15, 1819. He was but eighteen months old when his parents left their native land for America. They first settled in Mifflinsberg, Penn., where they lived eight years, then moved to Cherrytown, Lycoming county, where John grew to manhood. He was there married, in 1849, to Elizabeth Melhine, born in Brier Creek, Penn. They resided in that part of Lycoming, now known as Sullivan county, until 1856, at which time they came to Vernon county, making a settlement on Jug creek. Mr. Barge entered the northwest quarter of section 12, and immediately commenced the cultivation of a farm. He built a log house in which he lived several years, then erected a frame residence, which was burned, Feb. 8, 1881, with about half its contents. He then erected another frame house. Mr. and Mrs. Barge were blessed with seven children—Mary C., Francis E., George W., Adlett, Caroline E. and John F. The youngest child, Hardwell Lincoln, died when nine years and four months old. Mrs. Barge died Sept. 27, 1871. Mr and Mrs. Barge are both members of the Church, and took active steps to secure a Church organization, which was effected soon after their settlement here.

Joseph O. Parker, one of the pioneers of Stark town, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in that part of Franklin, now embraced in Anderson county, March 11, 1811. When he was nineteen years of age, he removed with his parents to Illinois, and settled in Edgar county. He made his home with his parents there until 1832. He was married the 3d of November, of that year, to Permelia Clark, who was born in Pulaski Co., Ky., in December, 1814. He bought a farm in Edgar county and remained there until 1856, when he sold out and started for Wisconsin with two oxen and one horse team. They were twenty-four days on the road; bringing their cooking utensils they camped out on the way. Arriving at Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, he entered land on section 35, of town 13 north, of range 2 west, now known as Stark, and lived in a log cabin until after the war, when he built the frame house in which he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Parker were the parents of ten children, nine of which are now living—Archibald, Harriet James F., Jemima, Rebecca, Mary, David, Sarah and Stephen. Their oldest daughter, Mahala, died in Illinois, at the age of sixteen.

E. Potter, one of the early settlers of Stark town, is a native of the Empire State, born in Washington county, Sept 10, 1811, where he grew to manhood. When twenty-one years of age he started west, locating in Erie Co., N. Y., where he was married, in 1840, to Mary A. Stone. He bought a tract of timber land in Erie county, built a frame house and cleared a farm, remaining there until 1855. In the fall of that year he started for Wisconsin, locating in Grant county and remaining one year, when not being satisfied with the location, he came with a team to Vernon county, bringing a year's provisions with him. He bought land on section 24, town 13, range 2 west, and erected a log cabin. Mrs. Potter painted the door red, and it was known as the house with the red door, and was the stopping place, for many years, of travelers. No one hungry and tired was ever turned away from their door. The family lived in this cabin until 1871, when Mr. Potter built the frame house in which they now live. Mrs. Potter was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., in December, 1819. When she was very young her parents moved to the western part of that State, in Erie county. It was here that Mrs. Potter began her pioneer life. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have four children—James, Jubette, Allison and Mary.

Samuel Gray, an early settler of Stark town, is a native of New York State, born in Erie county, Feb. 1, 1830. When twelve years of age he engaged on the New York and Erie canal, which occupation he followed until twenty-one years of age. He was married in the fall of 1850 to Elizabeth Stone, born in Chenango Co., N. Y. He engaged in farming, for one season, in Cattaraugus county, and, in 1852, started west to seek a home, settling in Grant Co., Wis. He there entered land, built a log house, and made other improvements. In 1857 he sold out and came to Vernon county, buying land on section 26, town 13, range 2 west. Here he built a hewed log house, and has since made it his home. Mr. and Mrs. Gray have had six children—Emertt, Leroy, Lucy, James, Frank and Elva.

Timothy McGrath was one of the early settlers of Stark town. He came here from Madison, in 1857, making the journey with an ox team, and being eight days on the road, locating the west half of section 16, which he had bought two years previous, built a log house and immediately commenced to make improvements, and made this his home until his death which occurred in 1868. He was a native of Ireland. His wife, whose maiden name was Ellen Quinn, was also a native of Ireland. They emigrated to America in 1847, settling in Milwaukee, and living there until 1855, when they moved to Madison, remaining until 1857, when, as before stated, they came to Stark. Mrs. McGrath died on the old homestead, Feb. 25, 1883. They left two children—John and Timothy W.

John McGrath was born in Milwaukee, Feb. 27, 1849. He was married in January, 1874, to Annie Gallagher, daughter of John and Bridget Gallagher, who settled in Clinton in 1855. Two children have blessed this union—John E. and Ellen. Mr. McGrath now occupies the homestead. He has built a neat frame house, and is engaged in stock and grain raising.

Timothy W. McGrath was born July 3, 1853. His early education was received in the district school supplemented by two years at the normal school at Whitewater. He taught several terms of school in this county, and is now studying law in an office in Minneapolis.

John Small, Sr., a settler of 1858, was born in the District of Columbia, July 31, 1786, and grew to manhood in the Nation's capital. In 1812 he enlisted in the 14th regiment, United States Volunteers, and served under Gen. Scott through that war, after which he located in Turkey Foot township, Somerset Co., Penn He was there married March 16, 1817, to Olivet Skinner, who was born in that township, April 3, 1794. Remaining there until 1820 they removed to Perry Co., Ohio, and a short time after he purchased timber land and partly cleared a farm. In 1828 he sold out there and moved to Athens Co., Ohio, and bought a farm, which he sold three years later, returning to Perry county and buying land in Salt Lick township where he remained until 1858. He then came to Vernon county, settling on land that he had entered in 1856, situated on section 18, town 13, range 2 west. He cleared a farm and lived here until his death, in 1873. His wife died April 19, 1867.

John Small, Jr., son of John and Olivet (Skinner) Small, was born in Monroe township, July 22,1824. He was married in 1853 to Mary Paxton, also born in Salt Lick township. After receiving a fair education, he engaged in teaching in Perry county. In 1855 he started west to seek a home, settling in Rossville, Allamakee Co., Iowa. He bought town property and engaged in teaching and later clerked in a store and also ran an engine in a saw and grist mill. He remained there until 1859, when he sold out and came to Stark town, settling on land that he had previously entered on sections 10 and 15. He built a log house on section 10, living there until 1872, when he built the frame house in which he now lives. He has also built a large log stable, granary, etc. Since living here Mr. Small has not devoted all his time to his farm, having taught school and also worked

at the carpenter trade. Mr. and Mrs. Small have three children—William, Isadora and Isabella. Isadora is the wife of John Teel and lives in Stark town. Isabella is the wife of Stephen F. Adams and lives in Webster.

James Moore came to Stark in 1860, and is numbered among the early settlers of that town. He is a native of Ohio, born in Muskingum county, Oct. 28, 1839, and was there raised to agricultural pursuits and received his education in the public schools. He was joined in marriage in March, 1860, to Annie Lytle, who was also a native of Muskingum county. The same year he brought his bride to Vernon county and settled in Stark town as before stated. He bought a tract of wild land on section 17, and erected a cabin of poles. They lived in this humble abode two years and then he built a hewed log house. He enlisted in October, 1864, in the 13th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south to join Sherman's army at Marietta. He served until the close of the war and was discharged in June, 1865, and returned home and resumed farming. He weather-boarded and painted his log house and lived in that until 1881, when he built a commodious frame house, in which he now lives. In 1875 he built a frame barn 30x44 feet in size and is engaged in raising grain and stock. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been blessed with four children—John, Leslie, Anson and Elmer. Anson was born in September, 1867, and died April 22, 1883.

Paul Bates was born in Hanover town, Plymouth Co., Mass., March 22, 1834. His younger days were spent in school. When seventeen years of age, he engaged to learn the boot and shoe trade, at which he continued to work until nineteen years of age, when he came to Wisconsin with his parents. He lived at home until 1863, when he was married to Mary Roberts, a native of New York State. He then settled on his present farm on section 1, Stark town. He has not devoted his entire time to farming, being engaged part of the time in lumbering and at work in saw mills. Mr. and Mrs. Bates have three children—Harvey A., Albert W. and Emma A.

Dempster Seely, proprietor of the saw-mill at Seelysburg, was born in Westmoreland town, Oneida Co., N. Y., March 25, 1820. He received his early education in the district schools, which was supplemented by a short term at the high school, in Hampton village. He stayed with his parents until 1840, when he came west to seek a home. He located in Waukesha Co., Wis., buying land and remaining there until 1843. He then returned to New York State, where he was married Aug. 16, 1843, to Maryett Blodgett. Returning to Waukesha county with his bride, he remained until February, 1844, when he sold out and removed to Jefferson county, being an early settler there. He purchased land in Jefferson town and built a saw mill on Bark river. In 1849 Mr. Seely built another saw mill on Duck creek. He was engaged in the lumber business and running these two mills until 1863, when he sold and came to Vernon county, purchasing a water power on the east fork of the Kickapoo, on section 20, town 13, range 2, known as Stark. In five months' time he had erected a frame house, built a large barn and had a saw mill running. He has since that time been extensively engaged in lumber business and farming. Mr. Seely has had contracts for the erection of quite a number of buildings and has built most of the bridges across the Kickapoo river in this section. Mrs. Seely was born in Madison town, Madison Co., N. Y., April 18, 1812. When she was about one year old her parents moved to that part of the Holland purchase now known as Chautauqua county, where they were early settlers. She was educated for a teacher and taught some years in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Seely have two children—Charles M. and Alice L. Charles is married to Emma J. Harorden, born in Boston, Mass. They are blessed with two children—Harry L. and Charles Ernest. Alice is the wife of Ed-

Nixon. They also have two children—Mercy J. and Raymond.

Irvin C. Nixon settled in Stark town in 1864. His land is on sections 28 and 29. When he bought the land it was quite heavily timbered, but he has cleared a good part of it and has it under a good state of cultivation. He first built a log house on section 29, but has since built a neat frame house on the same section which he now occupies as a residence. He was born Aug. 2, 1825, in Belmont Co., Ohio. When fourteen years of age his parents moved to Morgan county, in the same State, living there two years, then removing to Washington county. He was married Jan. 1, 1850, to Sarah A., daughter of Samuel and Leahvina (Van Clief) Smith. They remained in Washington county, where he owned a farm, until 1864, when he sold his farm and came to Stark. They have had four children, three of whom are living—Edgar T., Irvin D. and Ross K. Irvin is town assessor. Mr. Nixon has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1854 and was the first class leader of the Stark Chapel class.

William Bacon came to Stark town in 1865 and purchased a farm of William Evans on section 17, which he has since made his home. He is a native of Ohio, born in Washington county, May 31, 1819, where he was raised to agricultural pursuits. He was married, in 1844, to Mary A., daughter of Samuel and Leahvina (Van Clief) Smith. He purchased land in Washington county and made that his home until coming to Stark town in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Bacon have one child—Laurana—who makes her home with her parents. The family are members of the Star Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church.

Samuel Smith, superintendent of Star Chapel Sabbath school, was born in Luzerne Co., Penn., Oct. 6, 1800. In 1814 his parents moved to Ohio, locating in Delaware county, where they were early settlers. His father bought timber land and Samuel assisted him in clearing a farm. They lived there seven years, when his father sold out and moved to Washington county. Samuel made his home there with his parents until 1823. He was married in that year to Leahvina Van Clief, born in Washington county in 1804. Mr. Smith bought the Van Clief farm in Waterford, Washington Co.,Ohio., which was one of the first farms opened in Washington county. He remained there until 1865, when he sold out and came to Vernon county, settling in Stark town, where some of his children were living. He bought a farm on section 17, Stark town, living there until 1872, when he sold and moved to Stark, where be bought a house and lot. He has since completed the house and now makes that his home. In 1874 he purchased a farm on section 32. He rented this farm until 1881, when he sold it. Mrs. Smith died in 1865, leaving him five children—Mary A., now the wife of William C Bacon; Sarah, the wife of. I. C. Nixon; Jesse, Angeline, wife of Henry Hank; Leahvina, wife of Charles Miller. He married in November, 1866, Sophia Heaston, who was born in Richmond, Va. When quite young her parents moved to Ohio, settling in Columbus, where she lived until 1865, then came to Vernon county. Mr. Smith united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1850. Soon after he was elected superintendent of the Sabbath school. He is said to be the oldest Sabbath school superintendent in the world. His health is remarkably good; he is not in the least hard of hearing, and has never worn glasses.

Rev. Robert S. Mockett was born in Kent county, England, June 11, 1810. When eighteen years of age he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and while yet a young man was engaged in the ministry. He did not devote his whole time to preaching, however, being also engaged in the boot and shoe trade. In 1850 he came to America, spending one year in New York city, after which he went to Milwaukee, Wis. He there engaged in the boot and shoe trade, preaching occasionally until

1867, when he came to Vernon county and purchased a farm in Webster, engaging in farming and preaching. He occupied his farm until 1882, when he bought a house and lot in Star, to which he moved. Mr. Mockett now has charge of the Liberty Pole circuit, having five appointments. He has been twice married. His first wife was Mary Hobbs, to whom he was married in 1832, and by whom he had four children, two of whom are living—Richard H. and John H. Their first child, Eliza, died when four years of age. Their other daughter, also named Eliza, wife of Edwin Ellis, of Jonesville, died in 1873, leaving two children. Mrs. Mockett died March 9, 1881. Mr. Mockett married, March 25, 1882, Almira A. Whiteman, of Warren, N. H., widow of Jonathan Harnden, of Wilmington, Mass.

Amos Carpenter, M. D., settled in Stark town in 1868. He is the only practicing physician in the town. He belongs to the eclectic school of medicine, and has been successful in his practice. In 1882 he put up a building and opened a drug store. He has a labratory connected and extracts medicines from native herbs. He is a native of New York, born in Herkimer county, near where Ilion now stands, in 1822. At twenty-two years of age he entered the office of John W. Hersett, M. D., at German Flats, Herkimer county, and studied medicine with him one year. He then went to Lockport, N. Y., and studied with Drs. Samuel T. Teel and Herman D. Hall. In 1849 he commenced practice at Lockport and remained there until 1851, when he started west, and stopped at Richland, Ill., one year; then went to Monticello and practiced there until 1854, when he came to Richland Center, Wis. He spent two years in Richland Center, then came to Bad Ax county and spent the winter in Clinton. In 1857 he went to Bloomingdale, and there assisted in laying out the town. He remained there two years, then went to Avalanche and practiced there two years. In the spring of 1861 he went to Richland Centre; bought a house and lot with the intention of settling there, but changed his mind, and three months later he removed to Ironton, in Sauk county, where he remained three years, then went to Iowa, and stopped in Horton, Bremer county, through the winter, then went to Bradford, Chickasaw county, and remained there until 1868, when he came here, as before stated. He has been three times married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1845, was Louisa Freeman, who bore him two children. The oldest one, Cyrus, went to the war and died in the service. The younger, John Wesley, now lives in New York. Mrs. Carpenter died in 1849, and he was again married in 1852, to Susan Slater. She died in 1854, leaving one child that died soon after. His third wife was Elizabeth Leatherberry. Six children blessed this union—Lavina, Jasper, Cadwell, Loretta, Matt and Etta. He has filled offices of trust in the town, and was chairman of the board for several years.

Col. George W. Shattuck was born in Switzerland Co., Ind., Aug. 28, 1835. When two years of age his parents moved to Lawrence Co., Ohio, where he grew to manhood. His early education was received at the district school, supplemented by two years at Ewington Academy. He then engaged in teaching. Col. Shattuck was a gallant soldier during the War of the Rebellion. He first enlisted on the 4th of July, 1861, in a company of ninety day men, called the 1st Ohio Independent Cavalry. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of service and returned home. He again enlisted Nov. 6, 1861, in company H, 6th Ohio Cavalry, being mustered in as second lieutenant. He was for a time on Gen. Sigel's staff, also served with Gen. Sheridan, participating in the many battles of that army, and being honorably discharged at the close of the war. He was twice wounded; the first time at Lodd's farm, where he received a gun-shot wound in the foot; the second time at the battle of Dinwiddie court house, where he was severely wounded. He now draws a

pension of ten dollars a month. For gallant service and meritorious conduct he was promoted to captain, then to major, and afterwards to colonel. After his discharge he returned to Ohio and engaged in farming until 1870, when he was appointed railroad agent at Centre Station, Lawrence Co., Ohio. He remained there until 1872, when he came to Stark town, purchased land on section 24, and engaged in stock and grain raising. He was married Nov. 3, 1861, to Eliza Little, who bore him five children—George, Sarah, Judith, Mary and Richard. On July 4, 1873, while the family were driving to Rockton, they were overtaken by a storm, and Mrs. Shattuck was injured by a falling tree, from the effects of which she died seventeen days later.

Robert Parker, merchant at Star, engaged in business in November, 1882, keeping a small but neat stock of goods such as is generally found in a country store. He is also deputy postmaster. Mr. Parker is a native of New York State, born in Buffalo in 1845. When ten years of age his parents emigrated to Wisconsin, settling in Racine, where they remained three years, then went to Buffalo, Marquette county, where Robert grew to manhood. In August, 1862, he enlisted in company G, 32d Wisconsin Volunteers, serving until the close of the war, being discharged in June, 1865. He was with Sherman in his march to the sea and participated in the many battles of that memorable campaign. He was severely wounded Feb. 9, 1865, at the battle of Binnaker's Bridge, S. C., and is now a pensioner. After his discharge he returned to Buffalo. In 1866 he was married to Elizabeth Fish, born in Hornellsville, N. Y. Four children have blessed this union—Estella, Minnie, Della May and Eudora. Mr. Parker engaged in farming in Marquette county until 1874, when he came to Stark town, Vernon county, purchased land on section 20, and engaged in farming. In 1882, as before stated, he engaged in business in the village of Star.

Ezra O. Pelton settled on his present farm in 1875. It is located on section 32, in the Kickapoo valley. He was born July 16, 1832, in Cattaraugus Co., N Y. When nine years of age his parents emigrated to Wisconsin, locating in Waukesha county, making his home here until the breaking out of the war. He enlisted May 10, of that year, in company F, 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south. He participated in many skirmishes and a few battles, the most important of which were Balls Bluff and Williamsburg. He was discharged in 1863, on account of disability, and returned to Waukesha county. In 1874 he was engaged to carry the mail from North Prairie to Fort Atkinson, being thus employed for two years. He then came to Vernon county, and for three years engaged in farming. He went to Michigan, living there one year, then returned to Wisconsin and lived in Waukesha county until 1873. He then moved to Richland county, and after living there two years came to Stark town. Mr. Pelton has been twice married. His first wife was Emily Thomas, born in Michigan. One child blessed this union—Francis David. His second wife was Mary Burr, born in Winstead, Conn.

Jonathan Starner, blacksmith, came to Stark town in 1875. He was born in May, 1832, in Wayne Co., Ohio, where he grew to manhood. When young he learned the blacksmith trade. At eighteen years of age he moved to Elkhart Co., Ind., engaging at the carpenter trade. After remaining there one year and a half he moved to Huntingdon county, where he also remained a year and a half. In 1855 he came to Wisconsin, settling first in Marshall (now Bloom) town, Richland county, where he had the year previous purchased land He remained here until 1870, working at the carpenter trade and also running a grist mill. He then went to Forest, running a grist mill and blacksmith shop there until 1875, at which time he came to Stark, as before stated, and opened a blacksmith shop in the village of Star. One year

later he purchased land on the north bank of the river, where he erected a dwelling house and shop, and has continued in business here since that time. Mr. Starner was married in 1853 to Myrem Staley, born in Stark Co., Ohio. Five children have blessed this union, two of which are living—Samuel J. and Sarah M.

Henry Millard, merchant, was born in Rushville, Ontario Co., N. Y., July 22, 1855. He was less than two years of age, when his parents came to Vernon county and settled in Ontario. His early education was received in the district school supplemented by two years at the High School, at Sparta. In 1872 he entered Wayland Institute, graduating from there in 1874. He then went to Milwaukee and entered a printing office to learn the trade, remained there about a year and a half, then returned to Ontario. In 1876 he went to Viroqua and took charge of the mechanical department of the *Vidette*, a political paper. He continued there until the close of the campaign, after which he returned to Ontario, where he clerked in his father's store until 1879, when he engaged in trade at Star. In 1881 he put up a building on section 29, about one mile south of Star, and is now doing business at that place. He has a general store, keeping dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware, crockery and notions. Mr. Millard was married in January, 1881, to Louretta H. Carpenter. Two children bless this union—Mary E. and Oscar A.

J. Alanson Hurd, one of the pioneers of Richland county, was born in Utica, Oneida Co., N. Y., April 21, 1815. When he was but two and a half years of age, his parents removed to the western part of the State, and settled in that part of the Holland purchase, now known as Erie county. He remained there until twenty years of age, when he again pushed to the frontier, this time settling in Boone Co., Ind. He was there married in 1841 to Jerusha A. Springer. They remained in Boone county until 1848, and then started with ox teams on the 28th day of May, of that year, for Wisconsin, bringing their household goods with them, and camping out on the journey. On the 24th day of June they arrived in Richland county, where the husband purchased land in town 9, range 1 east, now known as the town of Orion, built a log house and immediately commenced to make improvements. He was elected first clerk of the first school district organized in Richland county. He cleared a farm and remained there until 1870, when he came to Vernon county and bought a farm on section 3, of the town of Union. In 1874 his house was consumed by fire, and he built another. In 1880 he traded that farm for his present home on section 2, town of Stark. Mrs. Hurd was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., in 1820. When five years of age her parents started west with teams, and settled in Erie county, remaining there until 1838, when they again started with teams, this time settling in Boone Co., Ind. She has made her way west from Cayuga county over-land with teams, and has reached her present home without crossing a railroad track.

Levi Millison, a general merchant in Star, commenced business here in March, 1883. He is the son of George and Ann Millison, and was born in Mercer Co., Penn., in March, 1852. In 1855 his parents came to Wisconsin and settled in the town of Sylvan, Richland county, where his father died two years later. He lived with his mother for a short time after that, then went to live with Chauncy Lawton, with whom he remained until 1861, when he started out for himself. He was employed by the farmers in this and Richland counties, and later he ran an engine in a saw mill. During this time he had attended school and acquired a fair business education. In 1880 he engaged in mercantile trade at Bowen's mill, Richland county, and continued in trade there until 1883, when he came to Star, as before stated. He was joined in marriage, in 1872, to Mary, daughter of Jacob and Ann Dush, early settlers of Richland county. Four children have blessed this union—Ida, Nora, Eddie and Harry.

CHAPTER XLV.

THE TOWN OF STERLING.

The territory bearing the above name lies in the southern part of Vernon county, and is bounded on the north by the towns of Harmony and Jefferson, on the east by the town of Franklin, on the south by Crawford county, and on the west by the towns of Wheatland and Genoa. The town of Sterling embraces parts of four different congressional townships —town 11, ranges 5 and 6; and town 12, ranges 5 and 6; in all, forty-six whole sections and four half sections.

The surface of the town is quite rolling and in some places very hilly and rough. The Bad Ax river flows from east to west through the northern part of the town, and several of its tributaries flow into it from the south. This river has a very winding channel and flows over a stony bed between high and abrupt bluffs.

The soil varies from a rich dark loam to a mixture of sand and clay, the former being highly valuable for the raising of all kinds of cereals.

A considerable portion of the town is covered with a light growth of timber, and there are but few places where the timber is heavy.

The inhabitants are of different nationalities, including American, Norwegian, German, English and Irish, the last named being but few in number. The people are, as a class, industrious and hospitable, and possess some of the best farms in the county.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in the town of Sterling was effected May 12, 1846, by Harvey Sterling and family. The family consisted of his wife and two sons, Lewis and Lee Grant, a nephew, James Clark, and America Sterling, a neice. Mr. Sterling was a native of Maryland. He came to Prairie du Chien by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. From Prairie du Chien he went to Mount Sterling in Crawford county, where a part of the family remained while the two sons, Lee Grant and Lewis, came to the east half of section 10, of town 11, range 6, and erected double log cabins, after which the family moved to their new home. Mr. Sterling died in September, 1855, and his wife in 1869. In 1884 Lee Grant was the only member of the family living in the town, his brother Lewis having moved to Cedar Co., Mo., and James Clark to California. It was from this family of Sterlings that the town finally took its name. The lands entered by Mr. Sterling were the second entered in what is now known as Vernon county.

Mrs. William Clark, a widowed daughter of Mr. Sterling, came in 1847, and entered the northeast half of the southeast quarter of section 10 and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 11. She built a log house in which she lived for several years. It was in this cabin that the first school in Vernon county was taught and the marriage ceremony in the town also took place here.

Another settler of 1847 was George Nichols, who came from Grant county and settled on section 31, town 12, range 5. In 1854 he sold to C. N. Johnson and removed to Viroqua and later moved to Chain Lake, Minn.

Henry Chandler, a native of Vermont, settled in the town in 1847, locating on section 18, town 12, range 5. He sold, in 1856, to James Bailey and settled again at Retreat. He served in the army during a part of the Rebellion and finally died at Retreat in January, 1868.

The third settler of the town was Alexandria Latshaw, a native of Indiana, who came May 15, 1847, and entered land on sections 3 and 4, town 11, range 6. He was quite prominent and held several places of trust. He taught the first school in the town. He finally sold out and removed to Victory.

Among the settlers of 1849 were William S. Purdy and Alexandria Vance. The former was a native of Indiana and settled on section 3, town 11, range 6, where he remained till 1860, at which time he sold out and moved into the village of Viroqua.

Alexander Vance was a native of Virginia, but came to this county from Indiana and settled on section 5, town 11, range 5, where he was still living in 1884.

In 1850 Nathaniel Cox, a native of Kentucky, located in the town and lived in various parts of the town, but in 1884 was a resident on section 4, town 11, range 5.

William Heaverine, of Kentucky, also located, in 1850, on section 17, town 11, range 5, where he died in 1862.

Samuel Davis settled on section 4, of town 11, range 5, in 1852, and was still a resident of the same tract in 1884.

The first Norwegian settler in Sterling town was Albert Nash, who settled on section 17, town 11, range 5, in 1851. He died in the Union army during the Rebellion. The Lutheran Church and parsonage were afterward erected on the lands which he settled on. Following him came Andrew and Scott Thompson, two Norwegians, who came from Dane Co., Wis., in 1853, and entered land on sections 17 and 18, town 11, range 5.

John McCormick was the first pioneer who faced the hardships coincident with western life in the Bad Ax valley. He came to that part of Sterling town through which the Bad Ax river flows, in 1852 or 1853, and located on section 16, town 12, range 6, where he built a log cabin and lived until 1855, when he sold out and removed.

Isaac Cone, a native of Maine, came from Rock Co., Wis., in 1853, and settled on section 9, town 11, range 5. He moved with ox teams and was eighteen days on the road. He improved his land and remained thereon till his death. His adopted son, Isaac Peaslee, came with him and in 1884 was the possessor of the homestead.

David Davis also accompanied Mr. Cone to this county and entered land on section 16, where he remained till his death.

Another settler of 1853 was George King, a native of Vermont, who came to Vernon county from Ozaukee Co., Wis., and located on section 7, town 11, range 5, where he remained till 1870, and removed to Howard Co., Iowa, where he still lived in 1884.

In 1854, among the Norwegians who came in for settlement were C. N. Johnson and Levi K. Ramset. The former came from Norway to California, and from that State to this vicinity, and finally bought land on section 31, town 12, range 5, from George Nichols, and remained on the same until the time of his death. His family were still on the old homestead in 1884.

Levi K. Ramset, who was also a Norwegian, came from Dane county and entered land on section 30, town 12, range 5.

John Johnson also came in 1854 and claimed a part of section 8, town 11, range 5, where he still lived in 1884.

The first German to locate in Sterling town was Nicholas Weber, who came in 1854 and finally settled on section 21, town 12, range 5, where he still lived in 1884. His brother Henry came in 1856 and settled on the same section.

John Campbell, one of the first actual settlers of the Bad Ax valley, in the town of Sterling,

was a native of Ireland, born in the county of Down, in 1804. In 1826 he came to America, first stopping in Canada and from there to Oneida Co., N. Y., where he lived for eighteen years, to 1855, when he removed to Bad Ax county, settling on section 16, town 12, range 5, where he remained for eleven years and moved to section 21. He was married in 1826 to Mary Brown, also a native of Ireland, born in 1811. By this union there has been reared a family of ten children.

Perry Curtis, a native of New York, came to the town in 1855 and settled on section 5, town 11, range 5, where he lived several years and then removed to Iowa.

Among the number who came in 1856 were: Sorn Jerman, Leonard Wakefield and David A. Bean. Sorn Jerman was a native of Norway, who came to Dane Co., Wis., and located on section 17, town 11, range 5, where he died in 1875. Leonard Wakefield and his son Elijah came from Illinois in the spring of the year and settled on section 35, town 12, range 6. The father died some time prior to 1883, at which date the son was living on the homestead. John Whitney came with them, entering land on the same section, but afterward moved to De Soto. David Bean, who was a native of Windsor Co., Vt., came in during the summer of 1856 and located on section 33, town 12, range 6. He was a practicing physician but devoted most of his time to his extensive farm.

Brightman Collins, a native of Bristol Co., Mass., settled in this town in 1857, purchasing a farm on section 15, town 12, range 6, where he remained till his death in 1883. He was a Bible student of considerable note and it is said by those most acquainted with him that he could repeat a large portion of the scriptures. In religious belief he was an Advent and occasionally preached that doctrine and was for years of the opinion that the world was to come to an end in 1884, and in this faith he died.

Cyrus Barney, a native of New Hampshire, came from Illinois in 1857 and entered land on section 8, of Sterling town, and there remained until his death in 1875. His wife died in 1882.

Robert McMynn, a native of Indiana, also located in 1857 on the southwest quarter of section 11, where he remained a few years and then located in Missouri.

P. D. Minor, another settler of 1857, came from Grant Co., Wis., and settled on section 14, on land which his father had previously entered.

EARLY EVENTS.

One of the earliest marriages in the town was that of John Tewalt and Celia Cox, at the house of William Heaverin.

Henry Chandler was married to Martha A. Clark in the winter of 1848–9. At the same time James Bailey married Elizabeth Clark, a sister of Martha Clark.

The first child born in the town, was a son to Alexander and Mary (Clarke) Latshaw, June 18, 1847.

ORGANIC.

The records of the first town meeting were lost or destroyed by some accident, and all that is known concerning it, is that Allen Donaldson was elected the first chairman, and also served as the first justice of the peace; and that Lee Grant Sterling was elected town treasurer, but failing to qualify, the place was filled by William S. Purdy. Lewis Sterling was one of the two men who constituted the first side board.

The town officers for 1883 were as follows: John M. Vance, chairman, E. Anderson and John Miner, supervisors; P. T. Mullin, clerk; John C. Johnson, treasurer; Arnt Westrum, assessor. P. M. Peck, and Samuel Davis, justices of the peace; J. C. Grow, L. C. Schoenberger and Joseph Brzazumsky, constables.

EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in this town was taught in 1858, by Axlie Morgan, in a cooper shop belonging to Hiram Delap. The first school house was erected in 1864, on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 15. Amelia

Lind was the first teacher in this building. In 1884 the town had nine school houses.

Retreat school district first had a school taught in a log house belonging to the widow Clark. This school was taught by Alexander Latshaw. The first school building proper erected was on the southwest quarter of section 10. It was a grout house. A frame house was erected in 1873, located on section 10. Thomas Tenney was the first teacher.

District No. 3 held its first school in a log house owned by B. S. Abrams, located on the northwest quarter of section 21, town 12, range 5. This school was taught by Mary Bulwer in 1858. A school house was built in 1868, which is still in use.

The first school taught in district No. 4 was in Richard Myers' house, in 1857, by Henry Morgan. There were only three scholars—Clarence Bean, Jane Shaw and Laura Sanderson. This school was operated on the subscription plan. A school house was built in 1858 on the southwest quarter of section 33, town 12, range 6. Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan taught in this building first.

In district No. 5 the first school was taught in a log house belonging to Leonard Wakefield, on the northeast quarter of section 2, town 11, range 6. This school was taught by Josephine Hurd, in 1858. In 1860 a school house was provided on section 2. A little later this building was moved to the northeast quarter of the same section.

The first school house in district No. 6 was built in 1857, located on section 25. This log structure was used by the district until 1880, when a frame house was provided, which was located on section 24, on land owned by Lewis Thompson. Frank Johnson was the first teacher here.

The first school in district No. 7 was held in David Davis' house on section 16. This school commenced in December, 1854. Laura King, afterward wife of Issac Peaslee, taught this term of school. A log house was built in 1855, on section 8, town 11, range 5, which served until 1865, when a frame house was provided, which in 1880 was destroyed by fire and a new one furnished.

The first school in district No. 9 was taught by Elizabeth Curtis, in her father's barn, in 1859. The first school house was erected in 1861, which was situated on section 5. S. S. White was the first teacher.

Joint district No. 12 held its first term of school in a house belonging to A. Crittendon, on section 24, town 11, range 6, in what is now Crawford county. This was in 1858, and the teacher was Sarah Jordan. A school house was provided in 1859, on section 14, town 11, range 6, of Sterling town. A. Morgan taught the first term of school in this building.

The Norwegian Lutherans have a school about eight months of the year. This school was founded in 1857. Knute Forthun was the first teacher. In 1884 they were still holding their school at private houses.

CHURCHES.

The Disciple Church of this town is one of the very earliest religious organizations in Vernon county. It was organized in 1849, by Rev. William Purdy, at the house of Harvey Sterling, where meetings were held for several years, after which they were kept up at the grout school house and still later at the Rush creek school house in Crawford county. The first members were: Harvey Sterling and wife, Lee Grant Sterling and Lewis Sterling. In 1883 a church edifice was erected at a cost of $1,200. At this date John Rutter, Martin Hoste and Charles Fourt were elders, and Lee Grant Sterling and Erastus Ames, deacons. The Church then numbered sixty-five. A Sabbath school was formed in connection with this Church in 1862, with William S. Purdy as its first superintendent.

In 1855 Ambrose Delap, a Wesleyan Methodist, preached in Isaac Cone's house on section 8. Meetings were kept up here for several years but no class was ever formed.

The Lutheran people held services peculiar to their sect, in Albert Nash's house on section 17, about 1856, and in 1858, built a church on that section. Rev. Mr. Stub acted as their minister, at the same time serving the Lutheran Church at Coon Prairie. He was finally succeeded by Rev. Preus, and he by Rev. Juve, who preached for fourteen years, and in 1883 was followed by Rev. J. G. Nelson, at which date the Church comprised seventy-three members.

In 1867 the Methodists organized another class at the Retreat school house. The following were the first members: E. B. Hyde and wife, William Barr and wife, Ammon Davis and wife, Mrs. V. L. Davis, Mattie Davis and Mrs J. M. Hill. William Barr was class leader. This class belonged to the De Soto circuit. In 1872 a church was built at Retreat; it was a frame house built at an expense of $1,300. In 1884 this Church numbered sixty-five. The following ministers have served this charge: Rev. Bushby, Rev. H. J. Walker, Rev. Thomas Manuel, Rev. D. L. Hubbard, Rev. D. Clingman, Rev. H. D. Jenks, W. W. Hurd and J. F. Nuzum.

In 1873 a Methodist class was formed at the school house on section 5, town 11, range 5, by Delos Hubbard, a minister of the DeSoto circuit. This class numbered twenty-three, and was under the leadership of E. B. Allen. In 1874 a church building was provided; this was located on section 4, town 11, range 5. In 1884 the class numbered about twenty. The following ministers have preached for this Church: A. D. Chase, John Davis, John W. McKay, William McMillan, Robert Smith, John Medd, James Phelps and R. S. Mocket.

A Congregational society was organized at the house of Robert McMynn, on section 14, town 11, range 6, in 1858, by Rev. Mr. Judson, of Viroqua. Among the first members were the following: E. Bishop and wife, Richard Morgan and wife, James Jordan and wife, Robert McMynn and wife, Reuben Jordan and wife, Sylvester Hayden and wife. Reuben Jordan and Richard Morgan were the first deacons. For several years this society worshiped at the school house on section 14; but in 1880 they used the Methodist church at Retreat, and in 1883 built a church of their own at that point. It was a neat, well planned building, which cost about $1,400. Among those who have served as pastors of this society are: Rev. Radcliff, Rev. Valentine, Rev. Bridgman, Rev. Thompson and Rev. Haughton.

The first regular services of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in this vicinity were held at Christian Christianson's house just over the town line, in Harmony town; Rev. A. C. Preus being the minister. In 1874 a church was built on the northwest quarter of section 13, town 12, range 6. In 1884 there were sixty-three families who regularly attended here. Rev. Mr. Nelson was pastor at this date.

A United Brethren class was organized at the school house on section 28, town 12, range 5, by Rev. E. K. Young. He was followed by Rev. John Day. On account of the removal of its membership, this class only existed a few years. In 1880 a Methodist class was formed at this point.

CEMETERIES.

The first burying ground of the town of Sterling was on section 10, where fifty-six interments were made. In 1866 a new cemetery was platted on section 10, on a beautiful mound covered with walnut trees, which suggested the name of this new cemetery "Walnut Mound Cemetery." This is said to be the next to the finest cemetery in Wisconsin—the one at Madison, only, being finer. Besides this burying place there are several Norwegian cemeteries within the town near their churches.

POSTOFFICES.

In 1884 this town contained three postoffices —Retreat, Purdy and West Prairie. A brief history of each of these offices, together with the business interests which cluster about them is here given:

Retreat postoffice was established in 1854. W. P. Clark was appointed postmaster; at that time he kept the office in his residence. This was on the mail route from Readsburg to De Soto. In 1884 Jesse L. Davis was postmaster, and at that date kept the office at his store. Mail was received four times a week from Viroqua and De Soto.

A blacksmith shop was opened at Retreat by O. C. Jones, in 1864 or 1865; it was sold to F. B. White in a year or two, who soon sold a half interest to J. M. Hill, who afterward purchased the entire shop.

In 1873 D. P. Smith opened a wagon shop, doing general repair work, such as is demanded by the farming class.

West Prairie postoffice was established in 1862. Allen Donaldson was the first postmaster, having the office at his house on section 6, town 11, range 5.

Purdy postoffice was established in what was known by the early settlers as the "Purdy neighborhood," at a very early day. In 1884 Ole Gauper was postmaster. This office being at this time on the mail route from Viroqua to De Soto.

At this point there is a blacksmith shop, which was started in 1876 by Joseph Brzazowsky. In 1881 George Little put a saw mill in operation and a little later a feed mill was added. Bad Ax creek furnished the power for this mill and in the spring of 1883 the dam was washed out by a flood and the foundation of the mill undermined, causing it to fall into the stream, where it was left to decay.

GRAND FORKS NEIGHBORHOOD.

On section 19, town 12, range 5, where the two branches of the Bad Ax river unite, there is what is usually termed the Grand Forks neighborhood. At this point there is a flouring mill, a store and blacksmith shop. In 1880 D. R. Mullikin, P. M. Peck and J. O. Morse erected a flouring mill. It was a three-story structure, 26x38 feet on the base. This mill has three run of buhrs with the most improved machinery. It does both custom and merchant work. The Bad Ax river gives a head of nine feet at this point, which furnishes an abundant water power.

Another mill was built in 1875 by John Mellor, on section 16, town 11, range 5. This mill had two run of buhrs. Its fifteen-horse power engine furnished the power. In July, 1880, the builder traded the property for a farm in the Bad Ax valley.

A brewery was built in 1870 on section 20, town 12, range 5, by Justice Grow and Reinhard Walker. This was in operation for about two years, but in 1884 was not in use and was fast going to decay.

PERSONAL.

The following sketches speak for themselves, and need no comment:

Harvey Sterling deserves honorable mention among the pioneers of Vernon county. He was born in Hagerstown, Md., in 1763, and his early life was passed amid the stirring scenes of the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars. He was twelve years of age when the American patriots were first slaughtered at Concord and Lexington, and shouted for joy when the liberty bell rang out the glad tidings of independence on July 4, 1776. In 1799 he removed to what was then almost beyond the pale of civilization,—State of Kentucky,—and settled in Woodford county. He was about forty-nine years of age when the second war with England commenced, and 1812 enlisted in the service of the United States, and was mustered out at the close of the war. He then returned to Kentucky, and located in Spencer county, where he lived until 1846. In the latter year he came north to Wisconsin, and made a settlement in Vernon county, where he died in 1855, aged ninety-two years. Mr. Sterling married Elizabeth Harper, a native of Pendleton Co., Va., born March 8, 1780. This union was blessed with twelve children. Mrs. Sterling departed this life Dec. 23, 1869, at the age of eighty-nine.

Le Grant Sterling was the tenth child of this large family, and was the first settler of Sterling town, and is the oldest living settler of Vernon county. He was born Aug. 6, 1819, in Spencer Co , Ky., and there grew to manhood. In 1840 he removed to Wisconsin, and located near Mineral Point, in Iowa county. In 1844 he laid claim to land on sections 10 and 2, in town 11 north, of range 6 west, then in Crawford county, but now embraced in the town of Sterling, Vernon county. He then returned to Mineral Point, and again engaged in mining, until 1846, when he returned to Crawford county and entered his land. He lived on the farm until 1867, when he sold it and removed to Missouri residing there for two years. Again returning to Vernon county, he bought a farm on section 14, town 11 north, of range 6 west, (town of Sterling), where he has since made his home. He has made some improvements on his land and has repaired his residence until it is considered one of the finest in the town. Mr. Sterling was married in 1856 to Margaret Rutter, who was born in Morgan Co., Ohio. Five children were given them—Charles, John H., Thomas, Lee Andrew and Henry. In 1871 Mr. Sterling suffered the loss of his wife and four children, John H. being the only one surviving. On Nov. 3, 1872, he married Lorena Johnson, a native of Pennsylvania. Of the four children born to this union, three are living—Olive, Jessie and William.

Soloman W. Tewalt was born in Knox Co., Ind., in November, 1838. When eight years of age his parents moved to Wisconsin, settling in Vernon county. He was raised to agricultural pursuits, receiving his education in the district school. He was married in 1860 to Josephine Hurd, after which he settled on section 8, town 11, range 5. He remained there until 1871, when he sold out and went to Oregon, at the end of three years returning to Sterling town. In 1880 Mr. Tewalt purchased the Adlington farm, located on sections 21, 22 and 28, town 12, range 6, comprising one of the best farms in this section of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Tewalt have six children—Edwin, Nellie, Alice, Nettie, Alvah and Elmer.

Alexander Vance is a native of the "Old Dominion," and came into this county in 1849. He therefore ranks among the first on the pioneer list. Mr. Vance was born in Virginia, March 14, 1814. He grew to mature years in his native State, and in 1837 became a resident of Sullivan Co., Ind. Twelve years later, (1849) not being satisfied with his new home, he sought a home in Wisconsin, and found one to his liking in Bad Ax county. He settled in what is now called the town of Sterling, where he erected a log cabin for a new residence. He lived in this humble abode until 1870, when he built his present frame residence. Mr. Vance was married, in 1839, to Susan Sloane, a native of Indiana. They are the parents of three children living—John M., Mary J. and Margaret. The eldest of these, and only son living, John M., was born in Sullivan Co , Ind., Aug. 15, 1842. He was but seven years old when his parents came to this county, and here reached the years of manhood. He received a very fair education in the district schools, and had the pleasure of attending the first school taught in Vernon county. In 1863 he was joined in marriage to Mary Curtis, and Aug. 27, 1864, enlisted in company I, 42d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was ordered to Cairo, Ill., where it performed garrison duty. Mr. Vance was mustered out of the service in June, 1865, and returned home. At the time of his marriage, he had settled on his present farm on section 4, town 11 north, of range 5 west, his farm embracing the land his father had located in 1849. Mr. Vance has always evinced a lively interest in town affairs; has served four terms as town clerk, three terms as treasurer, and is the present chairman of the board of town supervisors, this being his fourth term. Mr. and Mrs. Vance are the parents of six children —Perry, Charles, Clinton, Frederick, John and Etta.

Samuel Davis came in with the settlers of 1852. He entered land on section 4, town 11 north, of range 5 west, in territory now known as the town of Sterling, and where he still resides. Mr. Davis was born in Knox Co., Ind., April 29, 1828, and was there reared on a farm. In 1849, he married Sarah J. Devorse, also a native of Indiana. In 1852 the two came to Wisconsin and located in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been blessed with seven children—Hannah, Elizabeth, Margaret, Andrew, Daniel, Lavina and Peter.

Isaac Cone, one of the early settlers of Sterling, is a native of Maine, born July 16, 1794. He entered the service of the United States at the time of the trouble on the boundary question between this country and Canada. In 1849 he emigrated to Wisconsin and lived one year in Walworth county. Then removed to Rock county and lived there three years. In 1853 he came to Vernon county and entered land on section 9, of town 11 north, of range 5 west, territory now included in the town of Sterling. He erected a house, improved the land and remained here until the time of his death, which occurred in 1872. He was first married to Susan Davis, also a native of Maine. She died in 1865. In 1870 he married Florence Hayden. She is now living at Midway, and is ninety-two years of age.

Isaac Peaslee was an adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Cone. He was born in Penobscot Co., Maine, Sept. 14, 1835. His mother died when he was but fourteen days old. He made his home with his adopted parents until the time of their death. He was married, in 1855, to Laura King. Nine children have blessed this union—Louisa, George, Susan, Eugene, Harry, Herman, Mary, Thomas and Mary M. Eugene died when two years of age, and the two children named Mary died in infancy. Mr. Peaslee has lived in Sterling continually since 1853, with the exception of one year, 1872, when he went to Crawford county and purchased a farm and lived there one year; then returned to the old homestead where he has since resided. Mrs. Peaslee was the first school teacher on West Prairie.

Christopher N. Johnson was one of the first Norwegians to settle in Sterling town. He emigrated to America in 1847, and settled in Dane Co., Wis., where he remained until 1849. He then went to California, to mine for gold, and in 1853 came to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, and entered land in town 12 north, of range 5 west, in territory now included in the town of Sterling. He improved this land and made it his home until his death, which occurred in November, 1875. Mr. Johnson was twice married. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1857, was Gunelda Fortner. She is the mother of six living children—John C., Margaret, Christina, Ellen, Torger N. and Christopher N. Two of the daughters are teachers in the public schools and are meeting with great success. By his integrity and untiring benevolence, Mr. Johnson won the confidence and esteem of the new comers, by whom he was looked up to as "a father of his country," and to whom they came for counsel and advice. They were always welcome at his house, which was to them as an oasis in the desert, and were received with the greatest hospitality. Long will he live in the memory of his countrymen, who came here in those dark and dreary days when want and the desolate prairie stared them in the face, and the Indian war whoop was heard on every side. Then it was that they found in Christopher Johnson a true and constant friend. John C. was born in Sterling town, Dec. 10, 1858. He received a good education in the district schools of this town, and in the graded school at Viroqua. He was elected to the office of town treasurer in April, 1883, and is now serving in that responsible position.

Christian C. Olson was born in Norway July 27, 1842. When three years of age his parents died, and Christian went to live with an uncle, Halvor Erlandson. In 1850 the family emigrated to the United States, settling in

Dane Co., Wis. His uncle died soon after. In 1853 they came to Vernon county, settling on section 30, town 12, range 5, in territory now included in Sterling town. Here Christian grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district school. In 1864 he went by way of the Isthmus to California, remaining there six years. He then returned to Sterling, purchasing a quarter section of land on section 23, town 12, range 6, and there engaged in farming. In 1878 Mr. Olson was elected county register and removed to Viroqua, where he remained until 1883, when he engaged in trade at Grand Forks, Sterling town. In 1869 he was married to Julia Swinson. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have had four children—Oscar, Anton, Nellie and Clara.

French B. White was born in Beaver Co., Penn., Jan. 26, 1832, and when quite small was taken by his parents to Athens Co., Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He then learned the blacksmith's trade with a brother-in-law, J. M. Hill, and worked with him one year. In 1853 he came to Vernon Co., Wis , and lived about a year at DeSoto and Viroqua. He then returned to Ohio, and opened a shop in Athens county in 1857. He was married Dec. 16, 1857, to Sarah A Hill, born in Pennsylvania, Jan. 18, 1836. In 1863 Mr. White enlisted in the 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery, and served mostly in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was honorably discharged in August, 1865, at Knoxville, Tenn., and returned to Pennsylvania. Soon after his return he came to Retreat, Wis., and purchased a dwelling and blacksmith shop of O. C. Jones. He continued to work at his trade about three years, then his wife died April 19, leaving three children — Martin A., Clifton S. and Thomas W. He worked at his trade one year more, then rented his father's farm for three years, and finally, in 1873, bought a farm on section 15, of town 11 north, of range 6 west. He married Ruth M. Bates, Jan. 5, 1873, born in New York, July 10, 1850. They have one child—Purley C.

Robert Johnson, one of the early settlers of Vernon county, was born in Lincolnshire, England, Aug. 5, 1818. He attended school until fourteen years of age, and then engaged in farming. He was married in 1845 to Elizabeth Moires, a native of Cambridgeshire, England. In 1850 they emigrated to America, locating at Fort Atkinson, where Mr. Johnson engaged in farming. In 1854 he came to Vernon Co., Wis., settling first on section 33, town 12, range 5. He improved this land and resided here until 1878, when he moved to his present farm, situated on section 4, town 11, range 6. Mrs. Johnson died in 1879, aged fifty-eight years.

Albert, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Moires) Johnson, was born Oct. 10, 1847, in Lincolnshire, England. When three years of age his parents emigrated to the United States. He made his home with them until 1865, when he enlisted in company B, 50th Wisconsin Volun teers, and went to the western frontier. He was honorably discharged in June, 1866, and returned to Sterling town, where he engaged in farming, also dealing in grain. He was married in 1873 to Rachel Weevil. Three children blessed this union—Louisa May, Lizzie E. and Florence R. Mrs. Johnson died May 19, 1878. He married in October, 1880, Rosie J. Abrams. They have had two children, one of whom is living—Robert R. In 1878 Mr. Johnson purchased the farm first settled by his father, and now makes that his home.

Andrew T. Thompson was born in Norway, in December, 1828, being there reared on a farm. In 1852 he emigrated to the United States. He resided in Dane Co., Wis., one year. In 1853 he started with an ox team for Vernon county, taking provisions and cooking utensils with him, and camping out on the way. He entered land on sections 17 and 18, town 11, range 5, Sterling town. He erected a log cabin on the farm, in which he lived until 1881, when he built his present frame residence. He was married in 1858 to Susan Jerman. They have eight children—Thomas, Anna Sophia, Lem,

Mary, Christina, Carolina, Scott and Adolph. Mr. Thompson's mother and step-father came with him to Wisconsin, settling in Franklin town where they remained until their decease. His brother, Scott, also came with him and shared in the hardships of pioneer life. He was born in Norway, in 1831. When quite young, he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked in his native land. In 1852 he came to America, also going to Dane Co., Wis. In 1853, when he came to this town he also entered land on sections 17 and 18. Being a carpenter he built for himself, a nice hewed log house. He was married, in 1859, to Karn Christopherson. Five children have blessed this union, two of which are living—Mary S., and Thomas S. Mr. Thompson died in March, 1868, and Mrs. Thompson, in the fall of the same year. Mary and Thomas made their home with their uncle, Andrew Thompson, for many years after their parents death. They now occupy the homestead.

Nicholas Weber, one of the well known pioneers of Vernon county, was born in Saxe-Coburg, Germany, April 6, 1814. He attended school until fourteen years of age, and was then employed at farm labor. When he reached his eighteenth year, he learned the stone and brick mason's trade, and in 1849, came to America, landing at New York. He obtained employment on the Erie railway, and in the spring of 1851, went to the Isthmus of Panama, where he worked on the first railroad across that strip of land. He then went to Havana, Cuba, and from thence to New York, and after again working on the railway, was employed in a cooper shop for sometime. He removed to Illinois in 1852, and in 1854, came to Bad Ax (now Vernon) Co., Wis. He entered land in what is now called Franklin town, but the men with whom he had entrusted his money, silently and mysteriously disappeared, and he was forced to surrender the land. He remained there one year, and then bought land on section 21, of town 12 north, of range 5 west, now included in Sterling town, where he has since resided, and made a comfortable home. He was married in 1860, to Babara Swink, a native of Germany. They have six children—Katie M, Henry N., Louis J., Daniel G., Annie C. and William J. When six years of age, Mr. Weber accidentally fell from the roof of a barn, and was picked up in an almost lifeless condition. Since coming to America, he has suffered from three attacks of palsy, each of which have rendered him senseless for hours. His last sickness has made him quite helpless, but in his old age, he is the recipient of true filial affection; and is passing the winter of life among all the comforts that love can bestow.

Peter J. Mellen, one of the pioneers of the Bad Ax valley, was born in the Mohawk Valley, New York, Oct. 10, 1838. When he was a young man, he learned the carpenter's trade. He was married Oct. 27, 1838, to Caroline Page, a native of Massachusetts. After marriage, they settled in Oswego county, where he worked at his trade one year, then removed to Oneida county, and engaged to work as a stone mason. They remained there four and a half years, then returned to Oswego county, and remained there until 1850; then came to Wisconsin and settled in Ozaukee county. He bought land there, built a house and commenced to make improvements. In 1855 he sold out and came to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, and settled on section 15, of town 12 north, of range 5 west. He improved the land, built a house and made this his home until the time of his death, which occurred Aug. 27, 1882. His only son, Theodore, was born Sept. 15, 1856. His younger days were spent in school and on his father's farm. He was married Nov. 13, 1876, to Elizabeth, daughter of William and Mary Adams, who settled in Harmony town in 1856. They have three children—Essie, Myrtle and Lloyd. He occupies the homestead in company with his mother.

Thomas Sidyie was the oldest son of William and Ellen (Paurie) Sidyie, and was born in Forfarshire, Scotland, June 22, 1834. His

father was a miller, and when thirteen years of age, Thomas began to work in the mill. In 1855 he came to America, settling in Vernon Co., Wis. He made his home with an uncle, near Springville, for three years, when, in 1858, he was married to Sarah Pidcock, born in Ohio, June 28, 1835. He then, for four years, rented a farm in Viroqua town, after which he was engaged in farming in different parts of the county. In 1869 he went to Iowa, locating in Allamakee county. He remained there two years, after which he returned to Vernon county and rented a farm on section 16, town 12, range 6, Sterling town. After renting this two years, Mr. Sidyie purchased it, and has since made it his home. Mrs. Sidyie died, at Viroqua, Dec. 18, 1863, leaving three children—William, Eliza Ellen and Margaret J. The two oldest ones live in Genoa, the youngest in Iowa. Mr. Sidyie's father was born in Forfarshire, Scotland, in 1809. He died in 1866. His mother was born in Perthshire, in 1810. They were married in 1833. Mrs. Sidyie came to America to join her son in 1857, and has since made her home with him. She has six children living—Thomas, James, Margaret, William, John and Robert.

Leonard Wakefield, one of the early settlers of Sterling town, was born in New York State in 1800. He grew to manhood in his native State, and was there married to Polly Whitney, also a native New York. Soon after marriage he moved to Pennsylvania, where he bought a farm and lived until 1833. He then went to Ohio, settling in Seneca county, and living there twelve years. Going then to Illinois, Mr. Wakefield purchased government land in Lake county, and cleared a farm. In 1856 he again turned his face westward, locating in Sterling town, Vernon Co., Wis. He purchased land on section 2, town 11, range 6, and also on section 35, town 12, range 6, and here remained until his death, which occurred in 1871. His wife died in 1878. Their son, Elijah, is still a resident of the town. He was born March 15, 1827, in Pennsylvania. In 1853 he married Cleora Stickney, by whom he had four children, one of which is living. He lived in Ohio and Illinois with his parents, and came with them to Sterling, locating on land on section 2, which his father had entered in 1855. He enlisted in 1864, in company B, 42d Wisconsin Volunteers, and went south. He served until the close of the war, being discharged in June, 1865.

Adelbert, son of Elijah Wakefield, was born Sept. 21, 1854, in Lake Co., Ill. He was reared on a farm, and received his education in the district school. He was married, March 30, 1876, to Jane Wilder, born in Crawford Co., Wis. Four children have blessed this union—Effie C., John B., Charles and Hiram. He now occupies the old homestead of his grandfather. His children are the fourth generation that have lived on that place.

Henry Weber is a settler of 1856. He was born in Saxe-Coburg Germany Aug. 25, 1822. He attended school until fourteen years of age, when he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade, at which he continued to work until 1847, when he left his native land and emigrated to America. He landed at New York, but not finding employment went out of the city and succeeded in getting work on the New York & Lake Erie Railway, and subsequently on the Erie Canal. In 1850 he started west, visited Chicago, and from there went to St. Paul, Minn., and also Stillwater, and afterward to St. Louis, Mo., where he worked at his trade until 1856. In 1856 he made a settlement in Vernon county. He has since been a resident of Sterling town. Mr. Weber has improved his farm, erected substantial buildings for stock, grain, etc., and is an extensive raiser of small fruits, making a speciality of grapes. His farm comprises 280 acres. He was married in 1854 to Mary Pauly, also a native of Germany. They have had ten children—Elizabeth, Henry, Bertha, Mary, Christian, Louisa, Josephine, Sophia, John and Caroline J. Josephine died when four years of age.

L. G. Sterling

Laura A Sterling

P. D. Miner was born Aug. 12, 1828, in Monterey township, Berkshire Co., Mass. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1854 he came to Wisconsin, locating in Grant county. He bought a team and was engaged for three years in breaking prairie. In 1857 he came to Sterling town, settling on a farm that his father had entered a few years previous. For a few months he boarded with E. T. Bishop. He, in company with another man, kept bachel r's hall in an old log house on the place. He was married in 1858 to Sarah D., daughter of Dr. Simeon F. and Antoinette (Brush) Huntington. Her father was a native of Connecticut, and an early settler of Crawford Co., Wis. Mrs. Miner was born in Ohio. They have five children—Wilbur E., Henry T., Mary E., Hiram and Alice. After marriage Mr. Miner built a house on his farm. He has been a successful farmer, and now has 410 acres of land, a good set of buildings, and is now living with the surroundings of a comfortable home.

Simeon Gibbs was an early settler in Washington Co., Wis. He emigrated to that county in 1847, and bought government land and cleared a farm. He remained there until 1859 when he made his present settlement on section 10, of town 11 north, of range 6 west. He was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., May 13, 1806. When he was but seventeen years of age his parents removed to Jefferson county, where they were early settlers, and where he assisted his father in clearing two farms. He was there married in June, 1827, to Lucy Page, born in Cheshire Co., N. H., Dec. 7, 1806. Her father, David Page, was born in Brattleboro, Vt. He served the United States in the War of 1812, and was severely wounded at the battle of Sackett's Harbor. He was also an early settler in Jefferson Co., N. Y. At the time of his marriage Mr. Gibbs bought a farm in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and lived there a few years, then sold and returned to Jefferson county, where he remained until 1847, when he came to Wisconsin, as before stated. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have five children living—Jane, Lindley, Clara, John and Mary. His son John lives on the farm adjoining his father. He was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1844, and came to Wisconsin with his parents. He enlisted in February, 1865, in the 50th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and went west to the frontier. While in the service he nearly lost his eyesight, but has since partially recovered. He was married April 25, 1869, to Rosella Fish, of Vermont. They have five children—Harrison, Herbert, Alfred, Edith and Charlie.

Alvin M. Hayden was quite a prominent citizen of Sterling town for eighteen years. He was born in Somerset Co., Maine, Oct. 2, 1810, and died in the town of Sterling Nov. 6, 1878. At the time of his death he was postmaster of West Prairie; had always taken an active interest in town affairs; filled several offices of trust and for years was a justice of the peace. He married Clarissa Mitchell, also a native of Somerset Co., Maine. Five children were born to them, three of whom are now living—Lucy, William W. and John F. In 1855 Mr. Hayden emigrated with his family to Wisconsin and located in Monroe county. In 1858 they removed to Missouri, but returned within two years, and in 1860 settled in Sterling town. Mr. Hayden purchased land on section 6, town 11 north, of range 5 west. He improved this farm, erected a comfortable residence and here resided until his death. His widow still occupies the old homestead. The youngest son, John F., was born in Franklin Co., Maine, Jan. 13, 1851. He was united in marriage April 12, 1876, to Jane Cox, a native of Wisconsin. They have four children—Herbert F., Arthur M., Vesta May and an infant. In 1874 Mr. Hayden purchased a farm on section 6, of this town, where he has resided since his marriage.

D. T. Smith, wagon maker at Retreat, was born Sept. 21, 1826, in Sandisfield, Berkshire Co., Mass. He was raised to agricultural pursuits. When twenty-two years of age he re-

ceived employment in a wagon shop, where he worked a year. He then engaged in farming and carpentering. In 1857 he procured work in a rake factory, where he stayed four years. In 1861 he came to Wisconsin, locating in Crawford county. He remained there, however, but a few months, coming to Sterling town, Vernon county, and engaging in work at his trade and farming. He was drafted in 1863 in the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, went south and was with Sherman as far as Atlanta. He continued in the service until the close of the war and was discharged in July, 1865. He then returned to Sterling town. In 1871 Mr. Smith went to La Crosse, and engaged in carpenter and joiner work. In 1873 he opened his wagon shop in Retreat, near his residence. Mr. Smith was married to Lois C. Thompson, a native of Sandisfield, Mass. Mrs. Smith died in 1862. He subsequently married Sarah C. Davis, widow of John Frye and a native of Maine.

Jesse L. Davis has been engaged in the mercantile trade at Retreat since 1868, and is the present postmaster of the village. He was born in Cumberland Co., Penn., Nov. 7, 1809. When ten years of age, his parents removed to Shippenburgh, where Jesse attended the village school, and in vacations assisted his father in the tannery. At eighteen years of age, he left home and joined his brother, a physician at Carlisle, Ind. He was there employed as clerk in a store, but two years later went to Edwardsport, in Knox county, and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He there continued in business until 1846, when he received an appointment as clerk in the sixth auditor's office, at Washington, D. C., and immediately entered upon the duties of his position. In 1855 he obtained a leave of absence and went to Wisconsin, where he bought land on sections 10 and 15, of town 11 north, of range 6 west, now embraced within the limits of Sterling town. He returned to Washington, and resumed his duties, but in 1862 resigned his position and settled on his land, where he engaged in farming. In 1868 he engaged in his present business. Mr. Davis was married in 1832, to Vienna T., daughter of William M. and Sarah Purdy, natives of Kentucky, but early residents of that part of Indiana, now known as Sullivan county, and where Mrs. Davis was born June 5, 1816. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been blessed with four children—John W., Warren G., Martha A. and Laura V.

Christian Puls came to Wisconsin in 1851, locating in Washington county, where he bought timber land of the government. He cleared a farm, erected a log house and barn, and lived there until 1862, when he purchased a farm of John Whitney, on section 2, town 11 north, of range 6 west, known as Sterling town. Mr. Puls has given considerable attention to fruit growing and has a fine orchard. He was married, Feb. 1, 1852, to Christena Tuegel, born in Marienburg, Germany. They have six children—Caroline, born Nov. 9, 1853, John, born May 3, 1858, Annie, born July 25, 1862, Mary, born Oct. 11, 1866, Jimmy, born March 17, 1869, and George, born Feb. 25, 1873.

Lewis Thompson settled in the Bad Ax valley, in 1862. He took up a homestead on section 20, of town 12 north, of range 6 west. He is a native of Norway, born March 21, 1841. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1860 he emigrated to America, landed at Quebec, and came directly to this county, and first stopped with Scott Thompson, who lived on section 17, of town 11 north, of range 5 west. He was employed in farming in the neighborhood until 1862, when he started to make a home for himself. He first built a small log house in which he lived several years, and then built another log house to which he has a frame addition. He has been a successful farmer and now owns 315 acres of land. He was married, in 1860, to Christina Erickson, who lived but two years after marriage. His second wife was Dean Olson, who bore him eight children, three of them are now living—Thomas L., Ole L. and Margaret L. Mrs.

Thompson died in 1882. His third and present wife was Anna Sorenson.

J. Booth McClurg was born Jan. 22, 1835, in Columbiana Co., Penn. When six years of age his parents moved to Ohio, locating in Guernsey county, where they lived six or seven years, then removed to that part of Morgan now known as Nobles county. In 1853 he started for California, going by way of the Isthmus. He engaged for a year in mining at Nevada City. He then went to Shelby Flat, made a claim and worked there for a short time, then started out on an exploring tour, traveling in Washington, Oregon and Idaho territories, making claims and living in different places. The winter of 1861–2 he spent in Florence City, Idaho. It was a severe winter, and provisions were scarce, as means of transportation were limited. Flour sold at $13 per pound, sugar $5 per pound, and tobacco $10 per pound. In the spring of 1862 Mr. McClurg determined to return to his old home in Ohio and visit his parents, from whom he had not heard for eight years. On board the vessel at San Francisco, while engaged in conversation with a gentleman from Wisconsin, he learned that his parents were living near Viroqua town, Vernon county, that State. He accordingly went to Viroqua instead of Ohio. In 1863 he came to Sterling town and purchased an improved farm on section 1, town 11 north, range 6 west. In the spring of 1864 he bought a farm on section 11, same town, on which he lived but a few months. He then purchased his present home, on section 2, on which he has erected a good frame house and barn. Mr. McClurg was married in 1863 to Annis, daughter of Eliab and Eliza (Higgins) Bishop. They have had nine children—Inez I., Reno, Mabel and Maud (twins), Leo, Cyrus, Jennie, John Philip and Walter R.

Prominent among the German settlers of Sterling is John Shoenberger. His first settlement in Wisconsin was made in Crawford county, in 1854. He then bought an improved farm near Prairie du Chien, and lived there until 1863, when he came to Sterling and bought his present farm, on the northwest quarter of section 8. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Jan. 9, 1818. He spent his younger days in school and qualified for a teacher. He engaged in teaching in 1839. He also performed the duties of organist in the church, a duty that devolved on teachers in that country. He continued teaching until 1854, when he left his native land and came to America. He landed at the port of New York, and came direct to Wisconsin and located in Crawford county, and from thence to Sterling town. He was married in 1838 to Annie C. Croll, who was also a native of Hesse-Cassel. Eight children blessed this union — Henry W., Mary, Kate, Annie, Otto, Dorotha, Charles and Louis C. Otto is dead.

Solfest Otteson is a native of Norway, born April 1, 1837. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. When nineteen years of age he emigrated to the United States. He landed at Quebec, and came directly to Dane Co., Wis., where he was employed on a farm. He remained there until 1864, when he came to Sterling town, purchasing wild land on section 24, town 12, range 6. He has since improved a portion of the land, and erected a house and barn. He has also purchased more land, now having 320 acres. Mr. Otteson was married in 1863 to Christina Severson. They have seven children—Christina, Otto, Mary A., Severena, Jacob L., Kiah and Julia. Christina, the eldest, is teaching in the public schools of Vernon county.

William Getter was born Dec. 20, 1847, in Schoharie Co., N. Y. When seven years of age his parents came to Wisconsin, settling in Sterling town, Vernon county. Here William spent his younger days in school and on the farm. He enlisted in February, 1865, in company B, 50th Wisconsin Volunteers, and went to the western frontier. He was honorably discharged in June, 1866, and returning home settled on

his present farm. It is situated on high table land, on section 28, town 12, range 5. Part of this land he pre-empted and a part he bought. It is in a good state of cultivation and has on it a neat frame house. He has recently purchased more land, and now has 360 acres. Mr. Getter was married in 1868 to Mary Robson. Six children blessed this union—Albert, George, Robert, Willard, Bina and Howard. Robert died in infancy.

James B. Gilman was a native of Vermont and came to Bad Ax county in 1852. He was born in 1797 and when quite young was apprenticed to a carpenter and joiner to learn that trade. He worked at it for five years, then spent five years in learning the wagon-maker's trade. Resolving to still better his prospects for future employment, he served a three years' apprenticeship at millwrighting. About this time the United States and Canada were quarreling over the boundary line question and Mr. Gilman enlisted in the service of his country and was mustered in as major. The epaulettes which he wore are still in the possession of his daughter. He removed from Vermont to Illinois, and was one of the first to mine for lead at Galena. He remained there until 1852, when he came to Bad Ax county and made a settlement on section 21 and 22, town 12 north, range 5 west. In 1854 he erected a saw mill and lived there until 1863, when he sold his property and removed to Viroqua town, where he bought a farm. He resided on the farm until his death, which occurred in 1865. Mr. Gilman married Emily Twitchall, a native of Virginia, who died in 1858, leaving five children. One son, James W., was born in Calhoun Co., Ill., in 1839. He there attended the district schools and worked with his father at the carpenter and wagon trade. He came to Wisconsin with his parents and in 1861 purchased a farm one mile west of Viroqua and engaged in farming. In 1862 he enlisted in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, and served nine months, mostly on frontier duty. He was discharged for disability and returned to Viroqua, where he opened a wagon shop. In 1867 he sold his shop and stock and bought land on section 21 and 22, of town 12 north, of range 5 west, the farm lying in both Franklin and Sterling towns. He was married that same year to Harriet Lamb, also a native of Illinois. They have six living children—Hattie Belle, Lurinda May, Willie Burton, Maud, Walter and Mary Candis.

Hiram Bellows, the genial proprietor of the West Prairie Hotel, is a native of the old "Bay State." He was born at Blackstone, Mass., Dec. 6, 1830, and when quite young accompanied his parents to Rhode Island, and eight years later to Oswego Co., N. Y. He there remained until seventeen years of age, when he returned to Rhode Island and obtained employment as bridge carpenter on the Providence & Worcester Railroad, working for that company two years. He was subsequently engaged in various occupations at the following named localities: bridge carpenter on the railroad, in New Hampshire, one year; teaming at Nassua, two years; in employ of Worcester and Nassua Railway Company, four years; baggage master, four years, and conductor, seven years, for Boston & Lowell railroad; four years as conductor on Galesburg & Quincy branch of the C. B. & Q., in Illinois; one year as conductor between North Platte, Neb., and Cheyenne, W. T., on the Union Pacific road, and from 1865 to 1868, again in the employ of the C. B. & Q. Railway Company. In 1865 Mr. Bellows had come to Vernon county and purchased land on "West Prairie," on section 17, of town 11 north, of range 5 west, and section 36, of town 12 north, of range 5 west. In 1868 he settled on the former named piece of land, and has since been engaged in farming. At the present time he is extensively engaged in the raising of fat stock. In November, 1877, Mr. Bellows repaired his residence, made quite an addition to it and hung out the sign of the "West Prairie Hotel." His long experience with travelers as conductor,

and happy disposition, together with the pleasant and sociable character of his wife, render his hostlery one of the best in western Wisconsin, and a most popular stopping place for the best class of travelers. Mr. Bellows has been twice married. His first marriage was in December, 1853, to Augusta D. Chase, of Merimac Co., N. H. One child blessed this union—Ida. His second and present wife was Addie A., daughter of Alfred and Mary (Blodgett) Proctor, born in Saugus, Essex Co., Mass. They have one son, Elmer. Mr. Bellows is also postmaster at West Prairie.

Charles S. Fourt, superintendent of the Disciples Church Sunday school, was born Dec. 25, 1832, in Henry Co., Ind., being there raised to agricultural pursuits. In 1853 he emigrated to Iowa, becoming a pioneer in Allamakee county, where he entered land on section 12, Paint Creek township, breaking forty acres and building a log house thereon. In 1859 he sold this farm and purchased land on section 16, town 10, range 6, Crawford Co., Wis. He cultivated this farm and built a frame house, residing there until 1869. He then came to Sterling town and purchased land on section 14, town 11, range 6. In 1876 he bought his present home on section 11, this town, on which, in 1882, he built a neat frame house. Mr. Fourt has been twice married. His first wife was Hannah Valentine, a native of Manchester, England, born Feb. 28, 1836. She died April 9, 1876, leaving seven children—Lavinia, Edwin and Edgar, twins; Ida E., Franklin, Minnie M. and Lucinda T. In October, 1876, he married Hannah Davis, born in Sullivan Co., Ind. Mr. Fourt has been for some time an elder in the Disciples' Church.

Belus Shepherd Abrams settled on his present farm in the spring of 1870. He was born in Cuyuga Co., N. Y., June 5, 1821. He remained there until eighteen years of age, when he removed to Wayne county, in his native State, and engaged in farming, remaining, there until 1856, when he came west to Wisconsin, and entered land in town 12 north, of range 5 west, now in the town of Sterling. Mr. Abrams now owns 200 acres of land, 100 of which are fairly improved, and the other half is in pasture and timber land. He was married, in 1863, to Fannie, widowed wife of Leland Brown, who was a soldier in the late war, and died while in the service. Of late years, Mr. Abrams has rented his land, and a portion of the time has made his home at Boscobel, Grant Co., Wis. Before marriage he was unsettled, and spent a large portion of his time traveling.

J. S. Dustin settled on his present farm in 1870. He was born at Bethel, Maine, Aug. 6, 1834. He passed his early life amid rural scenes, and received his elementary education in the district school. When a young man, he learned the carpenter and joiners trade, at which he worked in Maine and New Hampshire until 1862. In that year he came to Wisconsin, and 1863, located at Eau Claire, where he was engaged in the lumber trade until his removal to Vernon county. He settled on his present farm, which is located on section 3, town 11 north, of range 6 west. Mr. Dustin was united in marriage, in June, 1868, to Sarah Cole, of Orleans Co., Vt. They are the happy parents of two children—Frank and Albert.

John Wesley Cade was born April 19, 1847, in St. Joseph Co., Mich. He came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1853, making his home with them until eighteen years of age. He then returned to Michigan, attending school four years at Sturgis, fitting himself for a teacher, teaching one term there, returning to Vernon county, where he engaged in farming in the summer seasons and teaching in the winter, a practice which he still continues. In the fall of 1871 he came to Sterling town, renting a farm for one year. In the fall of 1872 the house where he lived was blown down by a cyclone; he bought a farm situated on section 5, town 11, range 5, where he has since made his home. His residence was burned June 13, 1883, with most of the contents. He was mar-

ried in 1871 to Electa I. Cass, born in Lorignal, Province of Ontario. They have had four children—Stell, Roscoe, Rocklin (who died in 1878), and Orpheus Blaine. Mr. Cade has been prominent in town affairs, and has filled offices of trust in the town.

Ole Gauper, postmaster at Purdy, was born in Norway, Aug. 29, 1851. When he was but eleven years of age, his parents emigrated to America. They first stopped in Madison, Wis.. until the spring of 1863, then went to Black Earth town, in Dane county, where they remained until 1865, then came to Vernon county and located at Chaseburg. He made his home with his parents until he was fifteen years of age, then started in life for himself. He went to DeSoto and was there employed in a sawmill four years. After that he attended school two winters. He was married in 1872 to Amelia, daughter of Ove and Elizabeth Lind, a teacher in the public schools of this county. He purchased land on sections 10, 11 and 14, of town 12 north, of range 6 west. He built a house on section 10 and lived there until 1878, when he removed to section 12 and lived there until 1883, when he bought the old stand at Purdy, located on section 13, and now makes this his home. He was appointed postmaster in 1883. He is also justice of the peace. Mr. and Mrs. Gauper have three children—Robert Oscar, Elida and Alfred.

Cyrus Hunt, one of the early settlers of Vernon county, was born in the village of Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, Oct. 12, 1830, and where he grew to manhood. He received his education in the district school, supplemented with six month study under the private tuition of A. H. S aw, at Milan, Erie Co., Ohio. In 1847 he went to Iowa and located in Linn county, and there engaged to learn the coopers' trade. He was also engaged in teaching. In 1854 he came to Wisconsin and entered land, as before stated. He returned to Linn county and there spent the winter of 1854–55. Returning to his land in the spring of 1856, he commenced making improvements, and also worked at his trade as cooper. In 1866 he traded his farm for another farm on section 17, of the same town, and lived there two years; then rented the farm and removed to DeSoto. He there worked at his trade some of the time. He also served as justice of the peace. He remained there until 1873, when he sold his farm and purchased land on section 2, of town 11 north, of range 6 west, in territory included in Sterling town. He has since bought adjoining land, built a frame house and now makes this his home. He has paid considerable attention to fruit and has enjoyed as good success as any one in this section. He now owns an orchard of about 300 trees. He was married in 1862 to Elizabeth Asbury, a native of Madison Co., Ark. They have eight children—Richard R., Joseph M., Cyrus, Carrie, Almon, Ida P., Bertha and Ella. Mr. Hunt has been prominent in town affairs. He was appointed justice of the peace a few days after coming into the town, and has been elected to that office each succeeding year. He has also served as town clerk.

Thomas Minor was born in Monterey, Berkshire Co., Mass., Feb. 28, 1815. He was married in April, 1839, to Laura Brewer, also born in Monterey. In 1873 Mr. Minor came to Vernon county, purchasing land on section 14, town 11, range 6, Sterling town, and also on section 24, Freeman town, Crawford county. He settled on section 14, and still makes that his home. Mr. and Mr. Minor had nine children, five of whom are living—John H., William H., Watson W., Helen and Charles. Mrs. Minor died July 10, 1870.

John H. Minor, eldest son of Thomas and Laura (Brewer) Minor, was born in Monterey, Berkshire Co., Mass., July 10, 1840. He received his early education in the district school, completing it at Williams Academy, in Stockbridge. After leaving school he engaged in farming and carpentering in Monterey. In 1872 he came to Wisconsin, and purchased the farm on section 14, town 11, range 6, formerly

owned by Reuben Jordan, and which he still occupies. He was married in 1866, to Elizabeth Maine, born in Bark Hampstead, Conn. They have had six children—Edson, Mariana, Clarence, Bernice, Francis and Johnnie. Mr. Minor has taken a prominent part in town airs. He is a member of the town board.

Watson W., the third son of Thomas and Laura (Brewer) Minor, was born Jan. 21, 1851, in Monterey, Mass. He was reared on a farm, receiving his education in the district school. He came to Sterling town, Vernon Co., Wis, in 1871, purchasing land on sections 13 and 14, town 11, range 6. In 1876 he bought an improved farm of Clarence Bishop, situated on the southwest quarter of section 14. He makes this his home. He was married, Jan. 16, 1875, to Martha C. Engle. They have three children—Hattie, Wallace and Charlie. In 1879 he went into a blacksmith shop at Retreat, to learn the trade. In 1880 he built a shop at his home, where he now carries on the blacksmith trade in connection with farming.

The other two sons, William H. and Charles, live in Berkshire Co., Mass. The only daughter, Helen, married Deacon Phelps, and resides in Stockbridge.

Arnt Westrum, assessor of Sterling town, was born June 6, 1846, in Norway. He received his education in the common schools, and in the High school. When seventeen years of age he entered the agricultural school, which school he attended two years. In 1866 he emigrated to the United States. He first went to Minnesota, spending six months in Spring Grove. He then went to La Crosse, engaging there in teaming. In March, 1875, he came to Vernon Co., Wis., trading city property for a farm, situated on sections 26 and 35, town 12, range 6, Sterling town. He now makes this his home. In 1868 Mr. Westrum was married to Christina Everson. They have four children—Tena, Ovedia, Clara and Adolph. Mr. Westrum is well fitted for the position which he occupies. He is now serving his fourth term as assessor, having been first elected in April, 1879.

Arne J. Bolstad settled in Sterling town in 1876. He first bought forty acres of land on section 27, town 12, range 6, and on this small piece of land commenced farming. By industry and good management he has prospered, and his farm now contains 180 acres. Mr. Bolstad is a native of Norway, born Dec. 17, 1846. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1867 he came to the United States, first locating in Madison, Wis. After stopping there a short time, he came to Vernon county, being employed in farming in Franklin town until 1875. He then went to the Black river, following lumbering and farming one year, then came to Sterling, as before stated. He was married in 1875 to Bertha Everson. Four children have blessed this union—Ellen Helena, Maria, John J. and Henry E.

P. Melvin Peck, one of the proprietors of the Grand Forks flouring mill, was born in Wayne Co., Penn., July 24, 1844. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1864 he came to Wisconsin and located in Crawford county, where he engaged with his brother-in-law as a millwright. He worked in Wisconsin eight or ten years, then went to Minnesota. He built the Peterson mill in Fillmore county, and worked on all the principal mills on the Root river. He remained in Minnesota five years. In 1879 he came to the Bad Ax valley, and in company with his brothers-in-law, Mullikins and Morse, erected the Grand Forks flouring mill, which he is running at the present time. He was married, in 1875, to Henrietta Buckmaster, of Ohio. They have one child—Le Ross.

CHAPTER XLVI.

THE TOWN OF UNION.

Congressional township 13, range 1 west, is what is known as the town of Union. It is bounded on the north by the town of Forest, on the east by the town of Greenwood, on the south by Richland county and on the west by the town of Stark. The surface in some parts of the town is very rough and broken, while in others it is quite level. There is a large amount of timber distributed over the surface of this town, some of the best lands in the town had not been cleared up, even as late as 1884. The western part of the town is watered by Warner creek and its branches. The southern part by Bear and the south by Pine river, which takes its rise in the town. In 1884 this was strictly a rural town, which contained neither a postoffice or store.

James Cooper kept a store on section 2, on the old State road, at a very early day; and William Dixon kept a stock of goods at his house on section 10, as did J. B. Eastman on section 12. In early times there was a large amount of ginseng root gathered and sold to distant markets, which brought from fifty cents to a dollar per pound, when dry.

FIRST SETTLERS.

James Cooper, who settled on section 2, in 1849, was the first settler within the town of Union. He remained there until 1881, and moved to Hillsborough, where he died in 1883.

The next to locate in the town was Hiram Heath, who came in sometime during 1854, and settled on section 31, where he remained four years and then removed to Black River Falls.

The first Bohemians which settled in the town, came in 1855, direct from their native country. Joseph Urban and Anton Slama, together with Albert Johnechick and J. Barta. Slama settled on section 36, where he died in 1883. Barta remained on section 25 a few years and removed to Dakota. Urban located on section 36, and Johnechick on section 25, where they lived in 1884.

The following came in during 1855: Henry Widner, a native of Indiana, came early in the spring and located on section 7. A year later he sold to Wilson Thing, and settled in Forest town, where he remained a year, then returned to Union and settled on section 8. He enlisted in the Union army and died while in the service of his country. In 1880 his family were living in Iowa.

Charles D. Holbrook came from Michigan in the summer of 1855 and purchased the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, where he died five years later and was buried on his farm. His widow returned to Michigan three years after the death of her husband.

Joseph Getty, a native of Maryland, came from Ohio in 1855, and settled on section 30, where he still lived in 1884.

William Dixon, an Englishman, came from Oneida Co., N. Y., in the summer of 1855, and entered land on sections 2, 3, 4 and 9. In 1884, he resided on section 2.

Settlers came in more rapidly in 1856 than they had in any previous year. Among the number who came in for actual settlement were: William Outland, Moses Marshall, John B.

Eastman, George W. Lewis, Archibald Calaway, John Searing, Ebenezer S. Eastman, George Jepson and Charles Alberson.

William Outland, came from Ohio, in the fall of the year and settled on section 27, where he tilled the soil until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when he responded to the call of his country, enlisted and served through the war. After his return from the service, he moved to Richland county and there built a saw mill on Mill creek. A few years later, he sold and moved to Nebraska, where he was engaged at herding cattle on the plains. He finally was found dead in his cabin. He was a man of good character, possessed a fair education and made many friends where ever he lived.

Moses Marshall, came from Ohio in the fall of 1856, and located on section 28, but later, moved to section 29.

John B. Eastman, a native of New Hampshire, settled on section 12, where he died in August, 1876.

George W. Lewis, came from Ohio in the fall of 1856 and settled on section 35, where he was living in 1884.

Archibald Calaway, of Virginia, settled on section 30.

John Searing, a native of New York, came in the spring of 1856, and settled on section 19, where he died after a few years of pioneer life.

Ebenezer S. Eastman, a native of New Hampshire, came in the fall of 1856, and settled on section 1, where he remained a few years then moved over into the town of Forest, where he died in 1880.

Charles Alberson, a native of England, moved from Whitestown, Conn., and entered the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 3, and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 10. He died in 1866, when his family moved to Fort Wayne, Ind.

George Jepson, a native of England, bought the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 1. He afterward engaged in trade with James Cooper. In 1860 he went to Hillsborough and engaged in trade alone, and a few years later was burned out. He died previous to 1879.

Robert Milligan was one of the early settlers in the town of Union. He was a native of Belmont Co., Ohio, born in 1800, and there grew to manhood. He was married in 1856 to Mary Scott, who was born in Chester Co., Penn., in 1805. They remained in Belmont county until 1840, then removed to Missouri and settled in Platte county. Mr. Milligan there bought land and engaged in farming and also at worked at the carpenter's trade. He framed the court house at Platte City. In 1847 he returned to Belmont county and remained there until 1856, when he came to Wisconsin and settled in town 11 north, of range 1 west, now known as the town of Union. He purchased land on section 31 and commenced to clear a farm. He was a loyal man and watched with interest the struggle during the war of the Rebellion. During the dark days of 1864 he became so fired with zeal that he could no longer restrain himself and at the advanced age of sixty-four enlisted with the 100 days men and went to the front, serving until the expiration of his term, when he started on his return home. He was taken sick on the way and died at the National Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee, Oct. 3, 1864. His widow survived him and occupied the homestead until the time her death, which occurred March 3, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Milligan were the parents of eight children, four of whom are now living—Eliza J., wife of Otho Douglass and residing in Belmont Co, Ohio; Sarah R., wife of Mathias Groves; Angeline S., wife of Hugh Kerr, and Mary A., wife of James C. Reeve, of Nuckolls, Neb.

The following are among the settlers of a later date:

Joseph McCoy, a native of Pennsylvania, came from Butler county in the spring of 1857, and settled on section 10. He was killed in the Union army in February, 1865.

T. S. Jordan, of Indiana, settled on section 28 in August, 1858, where he was still living in 1884.

Jacob N. Poorman, a native of Pennsylvania, came from Indiana in 1861 and settled on section 22.

The same year David Sabin, of the same State, settled on section 28.

James McKitrick, of Ohio, settled that year on section 17, but afterwards moved to section 18.

Henry Obert came in 1860 and settled on section 5. He was a native of New York State. He died in 1875.

Edward Harris, a colored man who had been a slave in Tennessee, came to the town of Union soon after the war and purchased half of the northwest quarter of section 2. It is related of this negro that he was very industrious and also quite ingenious. While a slave he earned money nights making bracelets, and at the earliest opportunity he left his master and came north. He was with the Union army as cook about two years. At the time of the election in 1868 he was getting ready to move to Canada as he expected, in case Seymour and Blair, democratic candidates for President and Vice-President, were elected, to be returned to slavery. Like others of his race he was very superstitious. He was an excellent farmer and had the respect of all his neighbors. His first wife and children were taken from him and sold, and a son of his second wife was living in 1884 on the homestead in this town, where his father died.

EARLY EVENTS

As early a death as there is any record of, was William Joseph, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Getty, who died Jan. 3, 1861. His was the first remains buried in the Newburn cemetery.

Among the earliest births in the town were Adela, daughter of William and Rebecca Outland, in the winter of 1856–7, and Joseph F., son of Archibald and Harriet (Wear) Calaway, born Sept. 6, 1857.

The first settler was James Cooper, who settled on section 2.

ORGANIC.

The town of Union was organized at a meeting held April 10, 1856, at the house of Joseph Beans, when the following officers were elected: Joseph Newburn, (chairman), Elliot Benson and Herman Heath, supervisors; Horace H. Ripley, clerk; Joshua W. Osgood, treasurer; Thomas De Jean, assessor; Richard Glenan, superintendent of schools; Hiram Heath, George Walts and Thomas De Jean, justices of the peace; William Shult, Adam Bryan and John H. Russel, constables.

Officers of 1883: Samuel Bauman, (chairman), P. S. Steinman and Frank Johneschiek, supervisors; Robert Butcher, town clerk; Frank Crouse, treasurer; Jonathan Cry, assessor; Adam Crouse and J. N. Poorman, justices of the peace.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the town of Union was taught in 1857, in a log building erected by the neighbors on section 30. This school was taught by Isaac Outland and was in what was afterward known as district No. 1. This building was used as a school house for about two years, when another was erected on another part of the same section, in which Charles Searing was the first teacher. In 1872 a neat frame house was built to take the place of the rude log houses which served in pioneer times. Mary S. West was the first teacher in this frame building.

In what is now known as district No. 2, which was organized in 1859, a log school house was built on the southeast quarter of section 3. Miranda Markee was the first teacher in this district. In 1870 a new building was provided, which was located on the northwest quarter of section 12. Moses Brown was the first teacher.

The first school in district No. 4 was taught in 1859 or 1860, in a log cabin on section 25.

District No. 5 was organized in 1864 at a meeting held at the house of David Sabin, in November. A log school house was built in

1865, located on the southeast quarter of section 28. Amanda Smith was the first teacher employed in this district. This school house was still in use in 1884.

The school house in joint district No. 5 was built in 1868 or 1869; it was a log house on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 17. Ellen Marshall was the first teacher. A frame building was erected in 1880, on section 17, in which Maggie A. King taught the first term of school.

The first school in district No. 7 was held in Joseph McCoy's house, on the northwest quarter of section 10, in 1858, by Emeline Moses.

RELIGIOUS.

The Wesleyan Methodists organized a class at the school house on section 3, in 1862. Rev. John Markee and Alpheus Bray were the first preachers. Among others John B. Eastman and Joseph McCoy and their wives were members of this class; the former was chosen class leader. The following preachers have served this church: Rev's. Markee, Bray, Alonzo Atwood, Josephus Good, Willam Mulleinx and Townsend, who proved to be an imposter.

The Roman Catholics held their first mass in this town in the school house soon after it was built. Father Joseph Hyneck was the first priest. In 1873 they erected a church, located near the school house. Father Martin Bulin was priest at the time the church was in course of erection. In 1884 Father Anton Slama was serving the Church.

The United Brethren held services in the school house on section 17 in 1876. Adam Shanbough was the first preacher; he organized a class that year, consisting of twelve members: James McKitrick and wife, Myron Van Deausen and wife, John Van Deausen and wife, Rebecca and Amanda Harness. James McKitrick was steward and class leader. The following are among the number of preachers employed: Rev. D. K. Young, Rev. Pound, Rev. Charles Hibbard, Rev. William Smith and Rev. E. Casper.

The first religious services in the southwestern part of the town were held in the log school house on section 30 by John Crandall, a Baptist minister who organized a society of twenty members, who worshipped in the new log school house. A branch of this society have a church in the town of Stark.

DISCONTINUED POSTOFFICES.

What was known as Muncie postoffice was established in 1862. Jacob N. Poorman was appointed postmaster and kept the office at his house. It was on the mail route from Tomah to Orion. Mr. Poorman resigned in 1870 and the office was then discontinued. A year later Robert Robinson was appointed postmaster and held the office at his place on section 27. He was succeeded by Isaac Smith.

Goole postoffice was established in 1857. J. C. Cooper was appointed as postmaster and kept the office at his place on section 3. He was succeeded during the war by D. C. Burdick, who lived on section 12. J. B. Eastman succeeded him. The office was finally removed to the town of Forest.

CEMETERIES.

The first cemetery of the town is the one situated on section 30, known the Newburn Cemetery. Another burying place is located on section 32 at the "cross roads."

SKETCHES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Robert Butcher was one of the pioneers of Union town. He was born in Lancastershire, England, in 1829. When twelve years of age, his parents left their native land for America, and made a settlement in Carroll Co., Ohio. There the father bought a piece of timber land, and Robert assisted him in converting it into a good farm. In 1855 he married Frances Marshall, and in the fall of 1856, loaded up their household effects and shipped by rail to Lone Rock, Wis. Mrs. Butcher, being weakly, took the cars for Lone Rock, Wis. Mr. Butcher, Moses Marshall and family came through with a two horse team, driving some stock before them. They were thirty days making the trip

from Carroll county to Bad Ax Co., Wis. They settled on section 5, of town 13 north, of range 1 west, on land that had been entered the year previous. Mr. Butcher immediately built a log house, 16x18 feet in dimensions, in which the family lived several years. He has improved his farm, and taken an active interest in town affairs. He has served as chairman of the board of town trustees, town treasurer, and at present is town clerk, a position to which he has been elected for ten successive terms. Mr. and Mrs. Butcher have been blessed with eight children, seven living—Joseph M., Elizabeth P., Isaiah M., John J., Henry S., Katie and Charles G. and Mary M. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, was married to William McFarland, and died when twenty-five years of age.

William Dixon first visited this county in 1855, and made a permanent settlement in Union town, in 1856. He was born in England, Aug. 7, 1817. His parents were of Scotch nativity, and had lived in England but a short time. In 1828 they emigrated to America and settled in Oneida Co., N. Y., where William grew to manhood. At the age of seventeen he was apprenticed to a blacksmith to learn the trade, and served four and one-half years. After working as a "jour" for a short time, he went to Troy, N. Y and opened a machine shop, which he operated two years. After two years at his trade in Fultonville, Montgomery county, he went to Waterville, Oneida county, and there bought town property. Failing health induced him to seek a new climate, and in 1855 he visited Wisconsin. Being well pleased with the county of Vernon, he entered land in town 13 north, of range 1 west, now known as Union town. He returned to New York and spent the winter, coming out again in the spring of 1856. A year and a half later he went back to New York, this time to dispose of property there. He returned in the spring of 1859, and in September of that year was joined by his wife, who had traveled the entire distance alone. They settled on section 3, where they have since resided. Mr. Dixon has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, principally, but for some years kept a stock of goods at his house, and supplied the early settlers with the necessities of life. He was married at Waterford, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Sept. 7, 1848, to Miranda Clapper, a native of Kinderhook, Columbia Co., N. Y. They are the parents of two children—Jessie and Seward.

John B. Eastman was one of the pioneers of Vernon county. He was born among the rock ribbed hills of New Hampshire, Feb. 6, 1824. When six years of age, he accompanied his father's family to Vermont, settling at Norwich, where John was reared and educated. When nineteen years of age, he went to Lowell, Mass., and was there employed as a watchman on the Merrimac corporation for two years. Four years later, he went to Clintonville, now Clinton, Mass., and secured a like situation, which he held about two years. He then suffered a lameness in the foot, and was disabled from work until 1850. In that year, he returned to Vermont on a visit, and again coming to Lowell, open a variety store. He continued this for two years, then gave the charge of the store to his wife, who had been his assistant, and embarked in the restaurant business. He disposed of his stock in the fall of 1855, and started west to find a new location for a home. He stopped a short time with an aunt in Green Co., Wis., and from there, his uncle accompanied him to Bad Ax, (now Vernon) county, where he bought land on sections 1 and 12, in what is now the town of Union. He then returned to Massachusetts, and April 4, 1856, started with his family for their new home. He arrived at Albany, Green Co., Wis., on the 11th day of April, and sometime in May, his brother, Ebenezer, and family, arrived from New York. In June the two brothers visited their new location, and built a log cabin 12x14 feet in size and covered with bark. They then returned to Green county, and remained there until in September. The last of that month the two brothers and their families started for the

new home, and arrived the first day in October. They stopped over night with J. C. Cooper, and in the morning removed their household goods to their own cabin. A few nights after it commenced to rain very hard, and the water poured down inside as well as out. Mr. Eastman held an umbrella over the children; about this time a voice, calling for admittance, was heard above the storm. Its owner was admitted and proved to be George Jepson. The storm lasted the entire night, and the new-comer was forced to stand upright under a piece of bark during the long hours till the dawn. The entire assemblage were very damp the next day, but the sun came out, and with the wind as an assistant, soon dried their clothes, and no sickness or evil effects followed this long to be remembered drenching. Mr. Eastman commenced to build a house for himself as soon as possible, and moved his family into it on the 19th of November. On that same day snow commenced falling, and in the morning the ground was covered with a mantle of white, two feet in depth. Before this disappeared, other snows followed, and through the winter measured five feet in depth, not entirely disappearing until spring. The new-comers passed their first winter in the rude structure of logs, and tried to be happy and contented. When spring opened, John B. commenced clearing his land, which was heavily timbered, and finally succeeded, by hard and unceasing toil, in improving a fine farm. The family resided in their first log house until 1875, when he erected the present frame residence. In early life, Mr. Eastman kept a stock of goods at his house, and carried on quite a trade with the earlier settlers. He was elected town clerk, trustee, justice of the peace, and filled various other offices. He died Aug. 21, 1876, leaving a large circle of acquaintances to mourn his death. One son, George H., was born in Southboro, Mass., March 21, 1850. He has always resided with his parents, receiving his education in the district school. He was joined in marriage, Oct. 28, 1874, to Martha, daughter of Rev. John and Permelia (Davidson) Markee. Four children have blessed this union—Miranda, Grace, Permelia and Edith. Mr. Eastman occupies the old homestead in company with his mother. On Jan. 26, 1869, John B. Eastman took a boy to raise. He was Samuel D. Lowman, aged two and a half years, and during his stay in the family has proven to be good, honest and steady in whatever he has done. He is now attending school at Ontario.

Hugh Kerr is one of the pioneers of Union town and a prominent farmer of this section of Vernon county. He is of Scotch descent, but was born in county Antrim, Ireland, April 15, 1827. He was there raised to agricultural pursuits, receiving only a moderate education. When twenty-two years of age he came to America and stopped for a few months at Smith's Falls in the province of Ontario. From there he went to Belmont Co., Ohio, where he was joined in marriage, in 1853, to Angeline S., daughter of Robert and Mary (Scott) Milligan. That same fall they went to West Virginia and spent one year. They then returned to Ohio, and in 1857 came to Vernon county. Mr. Kerr purchased a tract of timber land on section 31, town 13 north, of range 1 west, now known as the town of Union. There were three acres of this land partially cleared, in the center of which was a small log cabin. The year following Mr. Kerr built a hewed log house, in which the family lived until 1874, when he erected his present commodious frame residence. His farm now comprises 218 acres, 100 of which are under good cultivation, and the entire farm is considered one of the best in the town. Mr. Kerr is a man well read and thoroughly posted on all questions of the day, and highly respected by a large circle of acquaintances. Himself and wife are the parents of four children—Eliza J., wife of Harvey J. Eastman; Robert A., a graduate of Rush Medical College, of Chicago, and now practicing medicine at Peoria, Ill.; John J. and Homer I.

T. S. Jordan, one of the early settlers of Union town, is a native of Indiana, born near Richmond, Wayne county, in December, 1827. His father, James Jordan, was a native of Pennsylvania, his mother, of Tennessee. In 1833, at about the time of the well remembered "Indian scare," they removed to Illinois and located at Reed's Grove, where the settlers found it necessary to work under protection of a strong guard. James Jordan attended the first land sale at the then small village of Chicago, and entered the present site of the city of Joliet. After three years in his new home, he sold his property and returned to Indiana, that his children might enjoy better educational facilities. He located at Blountsville, Henry county, erected a hotel and also engaged in mercantile pursuits. Three years later he went to Greenville, Delaware county, in the "Hoosier State," and was landlord of a hotel for one year; then purchased and cleared a farm in Well's county. He finally removed to Leesburg, Kosciusko county, where he bought town property and where his wife died in 1844. After the death of his mother, T. S. commenced life for himself. He readily secured employment as a farm laborer in Delaware county and was there married, in 1848, to Martha J. Babb, a native of Clinton Co., Ohio. He resided in Delaware county ten years after his marriage, and in 1858 removed to Bad Ax (now Vernon) county and bought land on section 28, of town 13 north, of range 1 west. The family lived in their "moving wagons" until a cabin was erected, in which they resided until 1879, at which date Mr. Jordan erected a comfortable frame dwelling house. He has cleared a larger proportion of his first purchase and has added to it until he now owns 160 acres. In September, 1864, he enlisted in company I, 12th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers; joined Sherman's army at Atlanta, Ga., and participated in the march to the sea, and northward through the Carolinas. He was honorably discharged May 31, 1865, and returning home, resumed his farming operations. Mr. Jordan has been prominent in town affairs. He was elected superintendent of schools in 1860, and was chairman of the board of town trustees for ten successive years. In 1876 he was the elected choice of the people for the State Legislative Assembly, and served one term. Mr and Mrs. Jordan have four children—Wesley S., Ann Eliza, LeRoy and Clara Bell. A brother of Mr. Jordon, James M., was born in Madison Co., Ind., in May, 1830. He was but fourteen years of age when his mother died. He then started out for himself. He was employed in farming in the States of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. He was joined in marriage, in December, 1851, to Mary Ann Babb, who was born in Clinton Co., Ohio. They settled in Delaware Co., Ind. In 1854, in company with his brother, T. S., he came to Wisconsin and visited Bad Ax county, but made no claim. He returned to Indiana and remained in Delaware county until 1858, when he came in company with his brother and bought land on section 28, of town 13 north, of range 1 west. He first built a log cabin, 19x21 feet in size, with a stone chimney at the end (southern style). As they had no stove, his wife cooked their food in the fire place for five years. They lived in a log house about five years, then built a frame house, in which they now reside. They have five children—Alpheus T., Timothy S., Emory G., Joseph C. and Lydia B. Their son, Oliver B., was born July 10, 1854, and died in Minnesota in December, 1878. David B. died in infancy. Mr. Jordon has been a successful farmer. He has added to his possessions by buying land adjoining, and now has 160 acres in a body, which was formerly heavily timbered, but a great portion of which is now in a good state of cultivation.

Isaac D. Poorman owns 240 acres on sections 29 and 32, and has been a resident of Union town since 1861. He is the eldest son of Jacob N. and Eliza (Babb) Poorman, and was born in Delaware Co., Ind., Sept., 30, 1843. His early

life was spent at school and on the farm, and in 1861 he accompanied his parents to Vernon county. On Nov. 27, 1863, he enlisted in the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, company G, and served under Gen. Sherman and Maj.-Gen. Thomas until the close of the war. He was discharged in December, 1865, and in 1867 was married to Mary A. Smith, also a native of Delaware Co., Ind. He then settled on section 32, where he is engaged in raising grain, especially wheat and clover, and is also deeply interested in the improvement of the stock in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Poorman are the parents of five children—Rosetta May, Almeda, Eliza Bird and Alma Bertha, twins, and Brud.

Jacob N. Poorman is a native of the "Keystone State," and came to Wisconsin in 1861. He located a quarter section of land in this town, forty acres of which are located on sections 21, 22, 27 and 28 respectively. He was born in Franklin Co., Penn., in November, 1821. His father, Daniel Poorman, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and died in 1824. When Jacob was but seven years of age his mother removed to Montgomery Co., Ohio, and in 1840 settled in Delaware Co., Ind. He was there married in 1841 to Eliza Babb, a native of Clinton Co., Ohio. He bought a piece of land in Delaware county, and cleared up a farm, living there until 1861. His mother had died in Indiana about 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Poorman have been blessed with thirteen children, nine of whom are living—Mary S., Isaac D., Barbara E., Susan, Martha J., Laura E., Sarah C., Eli S., Louisa B., William H. and Benjamin F., (twins), Margaret C. and Jacob L. Sarah C. was born Nov. 9, 1850, and died Aug. 26, 1851. Margaret C. was born Nov. 24, 1860, and died April 7, 1861. Martha J. was born March 4, 1848, and died Oct. 13, 1868. Louisa B. was born Sept. 3, 1854, and died Aug. 23, 1877. Mrs. Poorman departed this life Aug. 7, 1883.

A. James McKitrick settled in Union town in 1861. He was born at Deerfield, Morgan Co., Ohio, Jan. 14, 1838. His younger days were spent alternately at school and on the farm. He was married in 1859 to Martha A. Berry, born in Deerfield township, Morgan county, Feb. 13, 1842. They remained in their native county until 1861, when they came to Vernon county, and Mr. McKitrick purchased land on sections 17 and 18, building a log cabin on the former section. He lived in that primitive abode until 1879, when he erected on section 18 his present residence. He has made extensive improvements on his land, and now owns one of the best farms in the town. Mrs. McKitrick died June 12, 1883, leaving six children—Irwin E., Clarence W., Elva May, Bertrand Dupree, Laura E. and Stella J.

David Sabin settled on his present farm in 1861. He came from Richland county, and purchased land on sections 27 and 28, and immediately commenced to clear a farm. He built a good two story hewed log house, which he still occupies. He was born in Washington Co., Penn., Sept. 17, 1831. When he was eight years old his parents removed to Ohio and settled in Knox county, where his mother died four years later. When he was fourteen years old his father removed to Indiana and settled in Blackford county, where he soon after broke up housekeeping, and David then started out for himself. He found employment among the farmers of Delaware county, where he grew to manhood. He was there married in January, 1854, to Matilda Babb, who was born in Clinton Co., Ohio. He bought a farm there, on which they lived until 1858, when he sold and came to Wisconsin and settled in Richland county. He bought land on Mill creek, built a log house and remained there until 1861, when he sold and came to Bad Ax county, as before stated. His farm now contains 160 acres. They have nine children—William C., John B., Emma H., Eli D., Oliver C., Anna, Daniel A., Mary E., Rose B. and Alla A. Annie was born May 14, 1861, and died Oct 16, 1878.

Lorenzo F. Chesbro settled on his land in 1875. The farm is located on section 9 and

when he bought it was covered with timber. He has built a good log house and has cleared quite a large tract. He is a native of this State, born in Calumet county, March 31, 1848. His father, whose name was Nicholas V., was born in Oneida Co., N. Y. He settled in Calumet county in 1844 and was one of the first settlers in that county. He then bought land in the town of Chilton, cleared a farm and now makes that his home. The subject of our sketch was there reared to manhood, receiving his education in the district schools. He made his home there with his parents until 1870, when he came to Vernon county. He was married in January, 1871, to Mary J., daughter of James McCoy. Three children have blessed this union—Lorenzo Franklin, Walter and Charles. His cousin, Henry A., son of Lorenzo F. Chesbro, Sr., was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., March 5, 1860. He attended school there until seventeen years of age, then went to Pennsylvania with his parents and subsequently lived with them in Kansas and Missouri. He came to Vernon county in 1883 and has since made his home with his cousin, Lorenzo F. Chesbro.

Philip F. Steinmetz, a member of the board of supervisors, has resided here since 1875. He was born in Union Co., Penn., March 7, 1841. He received a fair education in the district schools, supplemented with a course of study at the Lewisburg University. He enlisted Aug. 20, 1862, in company E, 142d regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was severely wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862. He was sent to the hospital and discharged from the service March 9, 1863, on account of disability. He returned to Pennsylvania and in 1864 located in Sandusky Co., Ohio, and from thence to Seneca county, the same State, where he was married in 1868 to Dorotha Saloma Krauss. They remained in Seneca county until 1875, when they came to Vernon county and Mr. Steinmetz purchased the northeast quarter of section 18, town of Union. The land was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and he has cleared several acres, set out an orchard of apple trees, which have commenced bearing, also paid some attention to grapes and other small fruit. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmetz are the parents of seven living children—Mary E., John A., Charles H., Samuel E., William P., Emory A. and Oscar E.

George W. Hamilton settled in this town in 1878. He purchased timber land on sections 19 and 20 and began to clear a farm. He was born in Philadelphia, Penn., June 2, 1826, his father having died one month previous. When nine months old he suffered the loss of his best earthly friend, his mother, and was taken in charge by an aunt, who reared him to manhood. He was sent to the city schools and when ten years of age accompanied his aunt to Delaware Co., Penn., where he reached maturity. At the age of sixteen he commenced serving a four years' apprenticeship at the carpenter trade. When twenty years of age he went to Baltimore, and there worked at his trade until 1846, when he enlisted on board a man-of-war in the service of the United States. At the expiration of his service he returned to Baltimore and resumed work at his trade. In 1850 he went to Ironton, Lawrence Co., Ohio, and opened a store, also driving a wagon and bartering groceries for produce. In 1861 he engaged in the United States' service as wagon-master and served in the same capacity in West Virginia for two years. He then returned to Ironton and resumed business. In 1864 he enlisted in the 173d regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, company K, and was mustered in as commissary sergeant. He was promoted to a second lieutenacy, serving in company A until July, 1865, when he was discharged and returned to Ohio and settled in Gallia county on land he had purchased in 1864. He resumed his trade and also engaged in farming until 1878, when he came to Union town, and now owns 320 acres of land, a large portion of which is cleared. He was married May 26, 1852, to Mrs. Mary A. (Van Horn) Dearmon, widowed wife of George W. Dearmon, born in Ohio. They have two adopted sons—George W. Parnett and Charlie H. Eakman. Mrs. Hamilton had five children by her former husband, three of whom are living—John P., Nancy and William A.

CHAPTER XLVII.

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF VIROQUA.

A third of a century ago, the beautiful and enterprising village of Viroqua had its origin. While there may be nothing really remarkable in the development of the past, or anything peculiarly striking in the present, still there is much that cannot fail to be of interest to those who have been closely connected and identified with the city in all the various changes that have occurred. To those who have watched the growth and progress from its earliest origin, when Vernon county, then called Bad Ax, was but a wilderness, until the present time, the accomplishment of by-gone days would seem now like a great task, but it is, in fact, the sure and legitimate results of an advanced state of civilization.

Viroqua is situated in the civil town of Viroqua, a little southwest of the center of the county. The village is surrounded by some of the finest and most productive agricultural and stock-raising lands in the western part of the State, which is a guarantee of a permanent and ever increasing trade. This is the terminus of the Viroqua and Sparta branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and therefore the marketing facilities of the place are fully equal to the necessities of the community.

There are many imposing and substantial brick blocks to be seen upon the business streets and a stroll about the place discloses many fine and elegant residences. The location of Viroqua, being upon one of the highest eminences in the county, is exceedingly healthy; the inhabitants are possessed of high intelligence, and the society is of the most refined and desirable character.

EARLY DAYS.

When the earliest settlers came upon the site now occupied by the village of Viroqua they found a most inviting spot. As it is expressed by one of the pioneers, the site was a kind of an oak opening, interspersed with large oak trees, scattered irregularly over the surface. Adjacent to the north laid the fertile Round Prairie — as inviting a spot as could be found in the west. The very first settlement upon the site was made by Moses Decker. In 1846 he came here prospecting and selected land which is described as the east half of the southeast quarter of section 32, and the west half of the southeast quarter of section 31, town 13, range 4 west. The same fall his sons Solomon and Reasoner came and erected the first building upon the site of the village. They also did some breaking and began other improvements upon the land. The log cabin which they erected stood about where the door-yard or garden, surrounding the present brick cottage of James H. Layne, now is. After attending to these improvements, the boys returned to Illinois, from whence they had come. In the following year, 1847, the whole family came and moved into the building that had been erected. In 1850 Moses Decker erected another building within a few feet of the first one. This was of hewn logs. Although much improved, having been weather-boarded, this building is still standing, the oldest building in the place. In 1850 Mr. Decker had the original village sur-

veyed and platted into lots and blocks by Samuel McMichael. A brief notice of Mr. Decker's life will doubtless be of interest:

Moses Decker, the first settler on the plat of the village of Viroqua, was born in Orange Co., N. Y., of German parentage. He removed with his parents to Muskingum Co., Ohio, when a boy, where he grew to manhood and was married to Elizabeth Reasoner, subsequently removing with his family to Mercer Co., Ill. He had a family of fourteen children, eight of whom, five sons and three daughters, are living. Joseph and Henry, the two eldest sons, reside in Ohio. Solomon, who had grown to manhood when the family came to Viroqua, and where he lived for many years, is now in California. Lewis R., or "Dede," as he is familiarly known, is in Stevens, Minn. Thomas J., the youngest son, is now in Kansas. The daughters are: Eliza, J., wife of Ira Stevens, of Victory, in this county; Sarah A. is the wife George Nicholas, of Chain Lakes, Minn., and Elizabeth, wife of Owen Rice, of California.

In the meantime, in 1850, Rufus Dunlap had come from Dane Co., Wis. He brought with him a large family and the remainder of a stock of goods, coming across the country by way of Baraboo, with teams. He purchased two acres of ground where the Park Hotel now stands and erected a log building, with two wings. In this building he placed his stock of goods and opened up a hotel or public house. Dunlap's was the first store in Viroqua. He kept dry goods, occasionally groceries, and a stock of crockery ware lasted from the time he went in business until the time of his death in 1858.

In 1850 Orin Wisel came to Viroqua from near Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin, where he had made a claim. He put up a board shanty a few feet north of where the Tremont Hotel now stands, hauling lumber from the saw mill in the town of Kickapoo. He was a blacksmith by trade, and opened a shop, here, which he continued for a short time, and then removed to Readstown. He was a strong democrat, quite a politician, and was elected the first county clerk and clerk of the circuit court of Bad Ax county.

During the same year, 1850, Moses Decker erected the old school, meeting and court house, which stood upon lots now occupied by the Williams Block. This little building was the scene of all public doings in early days; it was used for schools, dances, religious services and as a court house. It is fully described in the chapter upon the courts of the county, the first term of court having been held in it.

In August, 1851, the entire population of the village consisted of the families of Moses Decker, Rufus Dunlap and Orin Wisel.

During this month William F. Terhune, the first educated lawyer in the county, came with his wife and located in the village. He at once became a leading spirit among the settlers While the county had been organized, yet the wheels of county goverment had not yet been fairly put in motion. He became a sort of deputy for the county at large, opening the books for the various offices and otherwise perfecting the system of county government. Mrs. Terhune opened a subscription school in the little log court house.

During the same fall, for the accomodation of Judge Terhune, Isaac and Solomon Decker erected a small building about 12x16 feet in size, which stood upon the lot now occupied by the Proctor & Tollefson building. This was the first frame building erected in the village. Judge Terhune occupied the building as a residence during the following winter. This building was afterwards removed to the corner where now stands the Tremont Hotel, and was used as an addition to that building.

In the fall of 1851 William A. Bullard moved into the village and took up his residence here.

During the ensuing spring, of 1852, Henry Nichols, S. C. Lincoln and Gilbert Herrick all moved into the village.

During the summer and fall of 1852, the building for years known as the Buckeye House was erected by Terhune & Bullard. This was the first frame building of any size erected in the county. It was constructed of the old timber or barn like frame. A number of the old settlers, among whom were James Foster, S. C. Lincoln, Cyrus Gillett, Rufus Gillett, Gilbert Herrick and others, worked upon the building under the direction of John Longley and W. A. Bullard, who might he called *quasi* carpenters. In those days there were no genuine carpenters; but any one who could handle a maul or drive a nail, worked at the trade. The lumber was drawn from Readstown, on the Kickapoo, where a saw-mill had been erected by Daniel Read. The building stood upon the corner directly north of the present store of Clarke Brothers. The building was occupied as a tavern with a wing attached for a law office until 1854, when the front part was rented to McAuley & McCormick for a store. They occupied it for a time, then Bullard sold his interest in the building to Dr. James Rusk, who occupied part of the building and Judge Terhune the balance. This continued until about 1862, when Rusk bought Terhune's interest. After the decease of Dr. Rusk, Hon. Carson Graham bought the building and owned it until it was burned to the ground, in 1878. Mrs. Carson Graham still owns the lot upon which the building stood.

Early in the spring of 1853 a man named Trott came to the village and bought the lot which is now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Randall. Upon this he erected a small dwelling house; it was frame, boarded up and down and battened.

During 1854 the meagre settlement of Viroqua received a number of additions. Among those who came were: James E. Newell, Israel and Aaron White, William Huntington, Joseph Buckley, Johnson Smith, J. B. Glassford, Thomas Crawford and Arza and John Strait J. E. Newell erected a building which stood just back of where J. H. Tates store now is. Israel White came from Ohio, and died about ten days after his arrival. His son, Aaron, erected a store building upon the corner opposite the Park Hotel; he also purchased a building that had been erected by William Huntington. Joseph Buckley erected a dwelling house where William Taylor now lives, which was destroyed by the tornado. Johnson Smith came in May, 1854, and built a dwelling and store where Layne's machinery depot is now located. J. B. Glassford bought a building that had been erected by Thomas Crawford, and put up a little store upon the lot now occupied by Peter Nelson's grocery. Arza Strait came from Ohio; he erected a little building near the center of block 14. The dingy little room which the building contained, was the scene of many rough times in early days. John Strait came at about the same time as did Arza, and erected a little house where the widow Day now lives. He died there.

Since 1854 the growth of Viroqua has been steady and sure. It has met and out lived all the difficulties which have in times past impeded the growth of this country. The crash of 1857; the hard times of the war during the sixties, and the financial panic and depression of 1873; all marked epochs or mile posts, as it were, in the history of Viroqua, as a village.

In 1879 the railroad was completed to Viroqua, and since that time the growth of the village has been very rapid. The track was completed to this place during the latter part of August, and the first train reached here early in September. The citizens indulged in a spirited celebration.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

The starting point in the business life of Viroqua has already been treated at length. For many years the stores were general and all carried almost every class of goods, but as the business of Viroqua began to assume larger proportions, the general merchandise began to separate, and the various stores, as a rule, handled one line exclusively. In this connec-

tion will be presented a history of each of the various lines of trade, giving the first and that in 1884, interwoven with the personal history of some of the most prominent business men.

The first general merchandise store in Viroqua, was established by Rufus Dunlap, in 1850, as has been stated.

The next general merchandise store was started by Henry Nichols & Sons, in the spring of 1852. They put up a building on the corner now occupied by Clarke Brothers' store, which was the first store building erected in the village. It was about 20x60 feet in size and one story high. This firm continued in business until 1857, when the father retired and the sons under the firm name of L. W. Nichols & Brothers continued the business for one year. At the expiration of this time M. C. Nichols withdrew and bought out Powell & Dawson. Henry Nichols withdrew and started a store at Liberty Pole. L. W. Nichols conducted the business for about one year, when he removed the stock of goods to the Mississippi river. About two years later he came back to Viroqua and became the partner of M. C. Nichols, as Nichols Brothers. This continued for about five years, when he moved to Iowa. Later, he returned and again went into partnership, remaining until 1877, when he went to Kansas, where he still lives.

Henry Nichols, one of the pioneer merchants of Vernon county, was a native of Providence, R. I., born Nov. 22, 1790. He was the son of a sea captain. After the death of his father, he removed with his mother, whose maiden name was Burnham, to western New York. From there, after the death of his mother, he removed to near White Pigeon, Mich. There he was married. His wife lived but a few years, and after her death, he removed with his only child, George S., to Ohio. Leaving his son there in care of friends, he went to St. Louis, Mo., and joined the Ashley expedition, which was sent in 1823, by the Hudson Bay Company, to trap for furs and trade with the Indians in the Rocky mountain region. About fifty men started on the expedition, and after spending two years traveling over the whole territory between the Yellowstone and Platte rivers, and enduring many hardships and privations, and having many conflicts with hostile Indians and wild animals, he, with but eighteen others, returned. After spending a year or two on the lower Mississippi, he settled in Hancock Co., Ill., where he married Delia Whitney, a daughter of Luther Whitney, with whom he lived on a farm near Warsaw until her death, which occurred in 1848. During his residence there, he served one term as probate judge of the county. In 1849 he moved with his family to Le Claire, Scott Co., Iowa, where he commenced his mercantile life. In 1852 he moved to Vernon Co., Wis., where, with his son Luther, under the firm name of H. Nichols & Son, he started the pioneer store of Viroqua. He continued in business until 1857, when he retired. In 1856 he was married to Mrs. Lydia Van Wagnen, with whom he lived until her death in 1870. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for more than half a century, and took an active part in moral and religious work, and at the advanced age of eighty-five years, loved and respected by all who knew him, he died at his home in Viroqua, June 28, 1876.

The following lines appeared in the Vernon County *Censor*, of July 19, 1876:

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HENRY NICHOLS.

BY W. HAUGHTEN.

A soldier of the cross long tried;
In manhood nobly brave;
The helping hand to none denied,
And faithful to the grave.

Farewell! To us a sad farewell—
Dear friendships holy claim;
No stain upon thy record fell,
No shadow on thy name.

We shed for thee no hopeless tears;
We would not stay thy flight;—
For, wearied with the weight of years,
Thine was a glad good-night.

Good night!—But o'er that purple sea,
Beyond the shadowy shore,
A cloudless morning breaks for thee,
Where storms do beat no more.

Farewell, till in that land we meet,
Where no sad tear is shed;—
Thy work was done; thy rest is sweet,
Blest with the holy dead.

Kind hands were near thee to the end,
And blessings round thee fell;—
Good night, O, Father, Christian, Friend,
A long, a last farewell."

He was the father of ten children, all of whom, excepting George S., were born in Hancock Co., Ill. George S., was born near White Pigeon, Mich., and settled in the town of Sterling, in this county, in 1849. He served four years in the 8th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and in 1866, removed to Martin Co., Minn., where he still resides. Chloe died in childhood. Sophronia married John C. Elliott, and moved to Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio, where she died in 1856, at the age of thirty years. Luther W., went with his father to Iowa; from there to Wisconsin, where he remained until until 1877, when he moved to Speareville, Kan., where he now resides. He was married in 1855, to Almira C. White, daughter of William F. White, one of the old settlers of the county. Henry B., went from Iowa to California, in 1850; from there to Wisconsin in 1854. He was married in 1858, to Lizzie Williams, who died a few years afterward. In 1862 he assisted in raising a company of the 19th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; was commissioned second lieutenant and was subsequently made captain. After the close of the war, he located at Norfolk, Va, where he married Sallie A. Shipp, and where he still resides. William died in boyhood. Marshall C., is the only one of the family now a resident of Vernon county, a short biography of whom will be found in another page of this history. Mary Ann died in Le Claire, Iowa, in 1851. Josephine and Horatio died in childhood.

The next general merchandise store established was that of Dunlap Brothers. About 1853 they opened up a stock of goods in a temporary building which stood about where the Park Hotel now stands. They remained in business about one year, when they closed out.

The next general merchandise establishment was started by H. W. McAuley, in 1854, in a building which had been erected by Terhune & Bullard upon the corner just north of that occupied by the Nichols store. For a time he was in partnership with George McCormick, and finally closed out.

In 1855 Anson Keeler started a general merchandise store in a building which stood where the Buckeye House is now located. He ran the business alone for a short time, when he associated himself with others under the firm name of Keeler, Fowler & Co. The Co., being John R. Casson. Willliam C. McMichael was also interested in the business for a time. They were finally succeeded by H. Greve, who continued until during the war, when he closed out his stock. He went from here to Sparta, and finally to St. Paul, where he has become very wealthy.

Shortly after, or about the same time that Keeler started, Johnson Smith opened a general merchandise store in the building now occupied by Samuel Layne as an agricultural implement depot, which stands just opposite the bank. Smith remained in business until he failed, a few years later.

In 1855 Add Clark, then of Prairie du Chien, put up a part of the building now occupied by J. H. Tate, and established a general merchandise store. He remained in business about two years, when he sold to Isaac Pennell, who moved across the street and purchased a building which stood where Brown's furniture store is now located. Pennell remained in business until 1864, at which time he disposed of his stock. J. H. Tate secured a portion of the stock.

At about the same time Powell & Dawson established a general merchandise store in the building now occupied by G. W. Morgan as a photograph gallery. In the summer of 1858 they sold to M. C. Nichols, who remained in the same building three years, when he removed to the building now occupied by Peter Nelson's grocery store. In 1873 he removed to the building now occupied by the Clarke Brothers which he had erected. He continued in business until 1882, when he sold the general merchandise department to the Clarke Brothers, and continued the drug business one year, when he closed that out. During these years his brothers were at different times in partnership with him.

W. F. Lindemann was about the next to engage in the general merchandise business. About the time of the breaking out of the war he opened up a stock of goods in what is now the postoffice building. He is still in trade one door south of the postoffice in the new brick building which he erected a few years ago. Melvin Chase is now his partner, the business being carried on under the firm name of W. F. Lindemann & Co.

In 1864 J. H. Tate established a general merchandise store in the building which had been erected by Add Clarke. He has since moved the old building back and erected the store building which he now occupies; still carrying the same line of goods.

In 1866 I. K. Buck moved in town from his farm and started a general merchandise store in the back part of the building now occupied by Smith & Lytle. He afterwards erected the front part of the building and continued in business until 1869, when he sold to N. McRie. This gentleman conducted the business until 1879, when he closed out all but hardware and drugs. In 1883 he sold the stock of hardware to Smith & Lytle, and moved his drug store one door south, where he still remains.

In 1870 Rogers & Henry started a general merchandise store in the building now occupied by the Slade meat market. This building has since been much remodeled. About 1879 H. D. Williams became a partner and the firm became Rogers, Henry & Williams. Mr. Williams erected the fine brick block in which the store is now located.

In 1875 Tollefson & Hazen established a general merchandise store in the building now occupied by O. Tollefson & Co. They continued for several years, when Mr. Hazen bought out the interest of his partner; shortly afterward moved to one door south of N. McRie's drug store, and continued until he closed out his stock in 1881.

H. H. Wyatt in 1879 started a general merchandise store in the building which had been occupied by Mr. Hazen. He continued a little over two years, when he went out of business.

In 1881 Tollefson & Omundson established themselves in the general merchandise business in the Proctor & Tollefson building. About one year later Joseph Omundson withdrew and started the store which he still continues. Mr. Tollefson still conducts the original business under the firm name of O. Tollefson & Co.

In 1884 the dealers in general merchandise were: W. F. Lindemann & Co., J. H. Tate, Rogers, Henry & Williams, Clarke Brothers, O. Tollefson & Co. and Joseph Omundson.

The first to handle drugs in the village was Dr. E. W. Tinker, who kept a small stock in his office, which he opened shortly after he came here, in 1854. Powell & Dawson were next to keep drugs and were the first to keep a regular assortment. They opened up a stock in connection with general merchandise, in 1856, in the building now occupied by G. W. Morgan, the photographer. They continued in business until 1858, when they sold the establishment to M. C. Nichols. Mr. Nichols kept the drugs in connection with other goods until 1882 when he sold the general merchandise department to Clarke Brothers and continued to deal in drugs until the fall of 1883, when he sold the stock and went out of the business

While he was in trade he erected the building occupied by the *Censor* and Clarke Brothers, also the one occupied by W. T. McConnell and Charles Douglass. The next drug store was started by N. McRie in 1868–9 in the building now occupied by Smith & Lytle as a hardware store, which he bought of I. K. Buck. He remained in that building until June, 1883, when he moved one door south, into the brick building which he now occupies. For many years Mr. McRie handled a line of general merchandise. He is still in the drug trade. The next drug store was started in 1879 by G. A. Bacon, of Baraboo, Wis., in a building which he erected and which is now occupied by the store of Joseph Omundson. Mr. Bacon continued in business about one year when he sold to Thomas Jerman. Mr. Jerman remained in the same building until he completed the brick building which he now occupies. In 1884 the drug trade was represented by N. McRie and Thomas Jerman.

The hardware line for many years was kept in connection with general merchandise. The first exclusive hardware store in the village was started by N. W. Winter. He was a tinner by trade and put a stock of tin and hardware upon the shelves of the Johnson Smith building. He continued in business for about six years when he sold out.

The next exclusive hardware store was started by Edward Everett shortly after the close of the war. He opened up in a building which he erected that stood just opposite the present Park Hotel. He continued in business until the summer of 1883, when he sold to L. W. Ady & Co., who are still in business, occupying a brick building which they erected. L. W. Ady started the next hardware store in 1879, in a building erected by Col. Butt. He remained in that building until the summer of 1883, when he moved to the building opposite the Park Hotel, having taken in David Strawn as a partner and bought out Edward Everett. Smith & Lytle established the next exclusive hardware store purchasing the hardware department of N. McRie's store and are still in business. In 1884 the representatives of this line were: L. W. Ady & Co. and Smith & Lytle. J. P. Joyce has a tin shop, and keeps a stock of tinware and a little hardware.

The grocery line has always been handled by the general merchandise stores. The first exclusive grocery store was started by Emanuel Wise, during the war, in the building now occupied by the butcher shop. He continued the grocery business a short time and finally worked into general merchandise. He is now located at Victory. The second exclusive grocery store was started by Calvin E. Morley, in 1879, occupying the present Peter Nelson building. He remained in business about one year, when he sold to Peter Nelson, who is still in the business. William T. McConnell established the next grocery store in the building erected by M. C. Nichols, where he is still in trade. During the summer of 1883 Albert Bliss established his grocery store. In 1884 the exclusive dealers in groceries were: Peter Nelson, William T. McConnell and Albert Bliss.

In an early day there was but little, if any, need for furniture stores, as nearly all the settlers and certainly all the carpenters manufactured home-made furniture. Probably the first in the village to make the manufacturing of furniture a business was Ole Larson. The next was T. J. DeFrees. W. W. Weeden was also engaged in this business in an early day, and afterward he, in company with O. C. Weeden, established a machine shop, equipped it with a turning lathe and made quite an important enterprise of it. They moved into a building that had been erected for a union church, which has since been moved to Main street and fitted up for a dwelling. The first regular cabinet shop in the village was started by Calvin Morley. He worked at the trade for several years, making household furniture and doing other cabinet work. His shop stood near the residence of Judge

Terhune, and is now occupied by Calvin E. Morley as a dwelling. The first regular furniture store was started by T. B. and Charles Brown. T. B. is deceased, but Charles still carries on the business in partnership with Joseph Pulver, occupying the same building. In 1881 C. C. Olson started a furniture store in the old court house building, which has been discontinued.

The first jewelry store was started by D. C. Hope, about 1859, in a building which stood where J. H. Tate's store is now located. He remained in business for several years and then moved his stock of goods to Sparta. He is now in Eau Claire, Wis. J. H. Tate kept a jewelry store in connection with his stock of general merchandise, for a number of years. The next jewelry store was started by Joseph Buckley, who is yet in business. Mr. Leach ran a store of this character for about one year after the close of the war. Charles Douglass started his jewelry store shortly after the railroad was completed to Viroqua. In the fall of 1883 Edgar Ely put in a stock of goods and opened a jewelry store in part of Clarke Brothers' store. The three jewelry stores in the village in 1884 were run by Joseph Buckley, Charles Douglass and Edgar Ely.

The clothing line has always been handled in connection with general merchandise, until August, 1883, when A. Grossman, of Sparta, established a branch of his main clothing store here.

The first restaurant or confectionery store in Viroqua was started by Daniel Ainsworth in 1858. He occupied a building which stood where Chapman's restaurant is now located. He remained in business about one year, when he left.

The next store of this character, in Viroqua, was started by Emanuel Wise, in 1864, occupying a building that has since been torn down, which stood near where Slade's building now stands. Later he took up a line of general merchandise and continued in business here until 1877, when he moved his stock to Victory, where he is still in business.

The next restaurant was started by H. H. Chapman, in the building which he still occupies. Among others who have been engaged in this line are: Thomas Allen, A. L. Russell, W. S. White, George Nichols, Fred Holden and L. Cobb. In 1884 this line was represented by H. H. Chapman, P. Palmer, Doxrud Brothers, and W. Mabie. Doxrud Brothers have a bakery in connection.

This first bookstore in the village was started by Mr. Lindley. The second by J. A. Somerby. In 1884 the only bookstore in Viroqua was the extensive establishment of F. M. Towner.

The first meat market in Viroqua was established by W. F. Lindemann. He is the present banker. Among those who have been engaged in this business are: Jere Chapman, A. L. Russell, Joseph Snodgrass, H. H. Chapman and Eugene Custer. In 1884 there was one meat market in Viroqua, owned by Wise & Devlin.

In 1884 there were two billiard halls in Viroqua, owned and operated by T. C. Hurlbut and Eugene Custer.

About the first to deal exclusively in agricultural implements at Viroqua, was S. P. Layne, who is still in trade. Fred Holden was also at one time engaged in handling agricultural implements. In 1884 the dealers were: S. P. Layne, A. L. Russell, Coates & Company, Pulver Brothers and Thomas Kelley.

The first lumber yard in Viroqua was established by Wharton Brothers & Lytle, who opened, in 1879, on the ground now occupied by I. W. Blake & Co. They sold to Dodge & Newbury, and they, in turn, to I. W. Blake & Co. I. W. Blake & Co. started the second yard, and, having absorbed others, are still in business. Dodge & Newbury started the next yard in 1880, and sold to Blake & Co. N. McRie was next in the field, establishing the business which he still continues to run. In 1884 the

dealers in lumber were: I. W. Blake & Co. and N. McRie.

In 1884 the insurance agents in Viroqua were: John Dawson, H. Trowbridge and Warren Davis.

The first tailor to locate in Viroqua was John Everett, who opened a shop here in 1856 and is still in business. In 1884 the tailors were: John Everett, H. C. Dean and Mr. Meidal.

The first livery stable in Viroqua was started by Edward Coe, in 1858, in a barn which he erected. He continued in business until 1882, when he sold to Hewey & McKitrick, who are still in business, using a barn back of the Tremont Hotel. E. Goodell established his livery business in July, 1870, occupying the same barn that he now uses.

The first blacksmith to locate at Viroqua was Orin Wisel, the first county clerk, who came here from Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin, in 1850. He did not erect a shop, but did some blacksmith work out of doors. He remained in the village about one year, when he moved to Readstown. The first regular blacksmith shop in the village was started by L. D. Marsten, who came here in 1852 and opened up in a little log building which he erected near the present location of the Buckeye Hotel. Later, Daniel Hinsworth became a partner. They continued in business three or four years, when Mr. Marsten removed to Crawford county. In 1856 S. A. Robinson came from Liberty Pole, in the town of Franklin, and opened a blacksmith shop in a little building which he put up on the southeast corner of block 3. He ran the shop until the time of his death. David Onstot started the next shop. He was in business for several years, when he removed to Kansas. Among other blacksmiths in Viroqua since that time are: Andrew Russell, J. D. Lawrence, J. H. Tate and Samuel Metcalf. In 1884 the business was represented by the following: E. A. Stark and Pulver Brothers, in connection with wagon making; Benjamin Williams, James Smith and Eugene Gaines.

The first wagon repair shop was started in 1855 by Mr. Gibson, who came from Ohio. The wagon shops of the village, in 1884, were run by E. A. Stark and Pulver Brothers.

The brick making interest is among the most important of Viroqua's industrial enterprises. The first yard here was started in 1855 by Thomas Gillett and Charles Skippens. They laid out the yard in the southwest part of the village, near what has since been called the "brick pond." They remained in the business only a couple of years. Many persons have at different times been interested in this enterprise. In 1884 there was only one brick-yard, which was owned by Moody & Son. It is located just east of the village.

In 1884 there was one marble shop in the village. It was owned and operated by Burt W. Battels.

The first harness shop in the village was started by W. S. Purdy in a little building that had been erected by J. E. Newell, which stood just back of Col. Butt's law office. Judge Purdy continued in the business for several years and was finally succeeded by his son, B. F. Purdy, who is yet in business. They erected the building in which the business is now carried on. In 1884 there were two shops in Viroqua—that of B. F. Purdy and Ferguson & Zitzner.

The first barber shop in Viroqua was started in 1862 by Thomas Bryant in the Skippen's Hotel. A little later he went into the service and during his absence Charles Skippens did some barbering. In 1884 there were three barber shops in the village.

The first regular dentist to locate here was Dr. Ely, who is still in practice. Dr. Goechenour is also one of Viroqua's dentists.

About the first to make dealing in grain a special business was W. F. Lindemann. The principal dealers in this line in 1884 were: Fred. Eckhart and Coates & Co.

In 1884 the most prominent carpenters and builders of Viroqua were: Henry Allen, I. W Blake & Co. and Willis Mabie.

BANKS.

The first bank established in Viroqua, was by August Nifenecker, in 1856, called the Moneike Bank. He occupied the upper story of a building which stood where J. H. Tate's store is now located. Mr. Nifenecker remained in business about one year, when he closed out the bank. A few years later, he removed to Bad Ax, now Genoa, where he was killed by W. S. Tibbitts. An account of the affair is given elsewhere.

The second bank was the Bank of Viroqua, which was established by W. F. Lindemann and Jeremiah M. Rusk, in December, 1879. It is still owned by the founders, occupying a substantial brick building, which was erected by W. F. Lindemann.

HOTELS.

The first hotel in Viroqua was erected by Rufus Dunlap, in 1850. It stood upon the lot now occupied by the Park Hotel. The main building was about 16x24 feet in size, and a story and a half in height. A wing was bui t on each side, making the building about 24x36 feet in size. It was originally a log building, but was afterward weather-boarded over the logs. It contained six rooms. One room sufficed for kitchen, dining-room and sitting-room, one for the office, the rest being bed roams. Rufus Dunlap opened the house as the Dunlap Hotel, and continued to run it for about six years. After this, it was not used as a hotel, and the timbers were finally utilized in the construction of a barn.

The second hotel erected in Viroqua was the old Buckeye House. It was erected by W F. Terhune and William A. Bullard in the summer and fall of 1852, and stood upon the now vacant lot on the corner just north of Clarke Brothers store. The building was about 24x36 feet in size, and one and a half stories high. The hotel was opened as such by Terhune & Bullard. They were succeeded by Jeremiah M. Rusk, the present governor of Wisconsin, as landlord. The next landlord was George Bush, who ran it for several years, when its use for hotel purposes was discontinued. The building was afterwards owned by Dr. James Rusk, and then Carson Graham, whose property it was when destroyed by fire in 1878. Mrs. Graham still owns the lot upon which the building stood.

The next hotel in Viroqua was the North Star House, which was erected in 1854 by Henry Nichols. It was 30x40 feet in size and an excellent building for those days. It was opened as a hotel by S. C. Lincoln. Succeeding him as landlord came Mr. Perham, J. M. Rusk, L. W. Nichols, Mr. Herrick, F. A. Denton, Isaac Pennell, J. A Somerby, Hiram Haskell, J. H. Gordon, L. R. Decker, Nathan Coe, Loyd Coe, Mr. Hewitt and E. W. Hazen. The name of the hotel was changed from North Star to Haskell, and finally Tremont House, which name it still bears.

The present Park Hotel was erected as the Dunlap House in 1858, by Hillier Dunlap and his mother. Its size was 24x36 feet, two stories high. Warren Dunlap opened the building as a hotel and acted as landlord for several years, when he was succeeded by Charles Skippens. Skippens remained landlord until 1865, when Bannister Brothers became proprietors. Hiram Haskell succeeded the Bannisters as landlord. Then came Capt. Connor, who changed the name to the Viroqua House. Orange Lamb was the next landlord, and succeeding him came Capt. Connor again, who is the present landlord, the name of the house having been changed to the Park Hotel.

Henry Connor, son of Henry and Sarah Connor, was born in West Chester, Chester Co., Penn. His father died the same year of his birth, and after two years his mother married again. Henry lived with his step-father till he was fourteen years of age, receiving a liberal

education. Then leaving home, he hired out to drive a team of mules on the canal. After working for himself for three years, he returned home, and learned the trade of paper stainer, of his step-father, who (in 1857) carried on the most extensive business in that line of trade in Philadelphia. He worked for his step-father for $4 per month. In 1857, he married Amanda M. Bransby of Philadelphia. Their union has been blessed with three children—Mary Loxly, John Henry and Henry John. His step-father was financially ruined in the panic of 1857, and in consequence of this failure, Henry Connor was thrown upon his own resources without one dollar,but by indomitable energy, he soon found employment on the Pennsylvania Central railroad, where he remained for one year, at ninety cents per day. At this time he became a citizen of the United States, being twenty-one years old. He cast his first vote for Alexander Henry, for Mayor of Philadelphia, the republican nominee, in the spring of 1858. Mr. Connor was then appointed fireman in the city water department, holding that position till 1861, then resigning and enlisting,April 18, as a private in company C, 17th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was discharged Aug. 2, 1861, at the expiration of his enlistment. He then returned to Philadelphia, and accepted his former position in the water department which he held two months. At this time the democratic party came into power, and he was notified that his services were no longer needed. He was immediately appointed by the republicans to a position as inspector of the gas department in the same city. After holding this position for nine months, he cheerfully gave it up, that he might further serve his country. On the 5th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in company G, 118th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers; was promoted as sergeant, Aug. 7, 1862; served in that capacity until Dec. 13, 1862; was promoted to 1st sergeant on the battle field of Fredericksburg, Jan. 19 1864; was promoted as 2d lieutenant company C, same regiment, Dec. 21, 1864; promoted again as 1st lieutenant of company H, same regiment, March 28, 1865, and subsequently promoted to the captaincy of company E, same regiment. He was with the army of the Potomac and Sept. 30, 1864, was wounded at Poplar Spring Church, through the face and neck. He was absent from duty only six weeks and returned to share the hardships of war life with the army until the battle of Gravely Run, March 31, 1865, when he was severely wounded, and suffered the loss of his right leg, which was amputated above the knee. He remained at the hospital until Oct 28, 1865, and was mustered out at his own request, in order to accept the position as chief weighmaster of the Philadelphia gas department. While serving in this position he was nominated by the republican convention, Aug. 31, 1866, to the office of city commissioner, and was elected to said office Oct. 9, 1866, by 10,000 republican majority. He was sworn into office, Dec. 31, 1866, by his Honor, Morton McMichael, mayor of Philadelphia. He took his seat Jan. 1, 1867, held the position for three years,giving a bond in the sum of $80,000 for the faithful performance of his official duties. During his official capacity, he disbursed $2,000,000 of the city's money. On his retiring from office, he was again employed by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company for four years. In 1878 he came to Boscobel,Wis., to visit his daughter, Mrs. Mary L. Keen. He at once saw a future for this boundless west, and only regrets that he was so unfortunate as not to have cast his lot in with the people of the west twenty-five years ago. He has leased the Park Hotel, in Viroqua, and under his successful management, it has derived a goodly share of the public patronage and established a fame for bountiful hospitality far over the surrounding country.

The next hotel in Viroqua was the Buckeye House, which was erected for a hop house by J. H. Layne & Sons. It was changed to a dwelling by Lindsley Layne. It was converted into

a hotel and opened as such in May, 1882, by S. W. Clark, the present proprietor.

EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in Viroqua was taught by Mrs. Margaret C. Terhune, in the old log court house building during the latter part of the summer and fall of 1851. The school started two or three weeks after the arrival of W. F. Terhune and his wife. There were about sixteen scholars in attendance. The term lasted about three months and was paid for by subscription at $2 for each scholar. During the succeeding winter of 1851–2 Judge Terhune taught the school at the same place and upon the same plan. Jennie Clark, now Mrs. Messersmith had charge during the following summer.

The old log building continued to be used for school purposes about two years, after which rooms were rented for public schools until 1856, when, the district having been organized, a school house was erected. It stood opposite the present residence of Warren Dunlap. It was, for those days, a commodious frame building, containing two rooms. School was then held in this building. Among the teachers who at different times had charge of the school while this building was in use were: R. C. Bierce, C. M. Butt, L. M. Perham, O. C. Smith, Mr. Moore, T. B. Brown and A. D. Chase. This school house was used for school purposes until 1868, when the present building was erected and the old one was sold to Charles Brown at auction. He moved it to a block east of his present place of business, where he used it for a shop for some time and finally sold it to J. H. Tate. It is now used as a dwelling house.

The present building, as stated, was erected in 1868. It is a large stone structure, occupying an excellent site a few blocks east of the main part of town.

The Viroqua high school was organized in 1876. A large brick edifice was erected a little east of the center of town, in 1882, at a cost of $2,400 for the high and grammar schools. The lower departments occupy the stone building formerly occupied by all the departments. In 1882–3 new furnaces were placed in both buildings and now the schools are heated and ventilated by the latest improved methods. The grounds surrounding the school are extensive and are beautified with different varieties of trees.

In 1883 the teachers were as follows: High school, C. J. Smith, principal; Lona Washburn, assistant; grammar department, Emma F. Howell, teacher; first intermediate department, Hattie E. Terrell; second intermediate department, Eliza Haughton; first primary department, Ida B. Coe; second primary, Hattie McRie.

Thus it will be seen that the educational facilities of Viroqua are excellent, and the public schools are justly a matter of pride to the citizens.

In 1883 the school board consisted of the following gentleman: Director, R. S. McMichael; clerk, H. A. Chase; treasurer, Earl M. Rogers. The committee upon examination of graduating class was composed of O. B. Wyman, William Haughton and C. J. Smith.

VIROQUA POSTOFFICE.

The Viroqua postoffice was not established until several years after the village was platted. In 1851 the nearest postoffice was Springville. In the spring of 1852 Hon. W. F. Terhune drew up a petition and procured signatures of most of the early settlers, praying for the establishment of a postoffice at this point. This petition, accompanied with a map of the country, was sent to the postoffice department. After considerable delay the petition was granted, and the postoffice of Viroqua was established, S. C. Lincoln being commissioned as the first postmaster. Mr. Lincoln opened the postoffice in the little building that had been erected by Judge Terhune, upon the corner of

Court and Main streets. He remained postmaster for about ten years, part of the time having the office in a building where the Park Hotel now stands, and later moving it to the other end of town. In 1864 Dr. James Rusk was appointed postmaster, and he kept the office in the old Buckeye House. S. C. Lincoln succeeded Dr. Rusk as postmaster. He removed the office to where Mabie's grocery store is now located. He was succeeded by W. S. Purdy, who removed the office to the building now occupied by A. Bliss' grocery store. On the 1st of January, 1876, Capt. R. S. McMichael was appointed postmaster, taking charge of the office on the 4th of January. He was reappointed in December, 1882, and is the present incumbent, making in this, as in all public positions to which he has been chosen, a most efficient and satisfactory official. The office now occupies a building two doors north of the Bank of Viroqua.

The Viroqua postoffice was made a money order office Aug. 8, 1866. The first order was drawn the same day, the remitter being L. W. Nichols, payee, H. C. Brown, New York; amount $2.50. After Capt. McMichael took charge of the office, the first order was drawn Jan. 4, 1876; remitter, S. P. Layne; payee, A. A. Abbott & Co., Chicago, Ill; amount $20. The total number of orders drawn up to Dec. 5, 1883, was 25,080.

Robert S. McMichael, postmaster at Viroqua, is one of the pioneers of Vernon county, his residence in the county dating from April 10, 1850. He was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1827. His father, William McMichael, was born in Washington Co., Penn., but removed to Ohio when quite a young man. R. S., was brought up to the business of farming. On coming to Vernon county, he located at Springville, in the town of Jefferson, and engaged in farming. In 1855 he went to Newton in the town of Harmony, and engaged in the lumber business. He enlisted Nov. 21, 1861, in company C, 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. On the organization of the company he was made 2d sergeant, and finally, in February, 1864, he was promoted to the captaincy of the company. He was actively engaged in the service during the whole progress of the war; participated in the siege of Corinth, in May, 1862—was at the battles of Iuka and Corinth, Miss, Grant's campaign against Vicksburg; battles of Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, etc. After the war, he served one term as sheriff of the county, was under-sheriff for a number of years; in fact was engaged in sheriff's duty most of the time, from the close of the war, till his appointment as postmaster, Jan. 1, 1876. Capt. McMichael has been twice married. His first wife was Orla Ann Sperry, a native of Trumbull Co., Ohio. She died at Newton in 1865. His present wife was Mrs. Frances J. (Gibbs) Swan. He has three children by his first marriage—William A., in Dakota; Eunice L., now Mrs. Westwick, of Dubuque, and Ella, wife of John Aikin. He has one daughter by his present wife—Nettie. Capt. McMichael was deputy United States marshal of this county, from 1870 to 1873, and was in government employ at Washington, during the winter of 1873–4. Several other members of Capt. McMichael's family have been residents of Vernon county. His brother, William C., who is noticed elsewhere in this work, came to Springville in 1847. Another brother, Samuel, came with R. S., to Springville, and settled at Viroqua, in 1853. He was a member of company C, 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh, and died a prisoner at Macon, Ga. Two sisters, also, came at the same time. Mrs. Mary A. Graham, who lost her husband and married Jesse Appleman. She died at Bloomingdale, town of Clinton, in March, 1883; Isabella, who married Harrison Sayre, now of Nebraska.

FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

Viroqua has lodges of the following orders: Masonic, Independent Order of Odd Fellows,

Good Templars, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Grand Army of the Republic and Chosen Friends.

RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services held in the village were at the old log school and court house, under the auspices of the Methodists.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the pioneer Church of Vernon county, and gave to Viroqua and vicinity the first religious services. The first class formed at Viroqua was organized at a camp meeting held in a grove near the residence of James A. Cooke, east of the village, conducted by Rev. Jesse Pardun in the autumn of 1848. James A. Cooke was appointed leader, and among the members were: James A. Cooke and wife, James Foster and wife, George A. Swain and wife, Daniel Crume and wife, William Crume and wife, George Crume and wife, Peter Hay and wife and Mr. Gillett. To these were soon added Rev. John Whitworth and wife, Henry Nichols, long and reverentially known as "Father" Nichols; and others. At first the class met at private houses, then in a log school house near what is now Brookville, and later in the log court house, school and church building in Viroqua. The first circuit of which Viroqua was a part comprised the entire county, the preacher in charge being aided in his arduous work by local preachers; notably, Rev. John Whitworth, James A. Cooke and James Bishop. The preachers successively upon the work, with regular appointments at Viroqua, have been as follows: Jesse Pardun, 1849–50; Rev. Stevens, 1851; Nicholas Mayne, 1852–3; A. Cooley, 1854; Jesse Pardun and Rev. McIndoe, 1855; George Hartshorn, 1856; James Fitch, 1857–8; A. Foster, 1859; J. E. Irish, 1860: George W. Nuzum, 1861–2; Samuel Dodge, 1863–4–5; W. F. De Lap, R. Fancher, 1867: Thomas Manuel, 1868; I. S. Leavitt, 1869; W. R. Irish, 1870; W. F. De Lap, 1871–2–3; Jacob Miller, 1874; E. L. Semans, 1875–6–7; George Nuzum, 1878–9; Charles Irish, 1880; J. T. Morgans, 1881; I. B. Bickford, 1882–3. The different presiding elders have been Chauncy Hobart, Alfred Brunson, R. R. Wood, A. H. Walters, W. B. Hazeltine, J. T. Pryor, R. Dudgeon, W. F. De Lap, J. D. Searles, E. E. Clough and J. B. Balch. The first church building was erected in 1856 upon a lot deeded to the society by Henry Nichols. This was entirely destroyed by the tornado of 1865, and the present building was erected upon the same site at a cost of about $2,000, in 1866, being dedicated Feb. 17, 1867, President Steele, of Lawrence University, preaching the dedicatory sermon. The remarkable zeal and laborious efforts of Rev. Samuel Dodge in the rebuilding of the church at this time, when the entire community was depressed financially and otherwise, by the destructive tornado, deserves special mention and grateful remembrance. Gen. J. M. Rusk presented the Church with a fine 500 pound bell from the Buckeye Foundry, at Cincinnati. A notable revival occurred under the pastorate of Rev. W. F. De Lap, during the winter of 1867, and the society became distinctively strong in numbers and spirituality. The present officers of the Church are as follows: Pastor, Rev. I. B. Bickford; class leader, P. J. Layne; stewards, John W. Curry, J. B. Richards, John Everett, S. P. Layne; recording steward, P. J. Layne; district steward, J. W. Curry; trustees, William Stricker, S. P. Layne, J. B. Richards, John Everett, D. A. Barnard and C. J. Cherrington. During 1883 the audience room of the church was papered and ceiled, the pulpit and platform remodeled, and now presents a very tasteful appearance. Being the most commodious and centrally located church in the village it is in frequent use for temperance meetings and public school exercises.

The Sunday school was organized during the summer of 1867, upon a denominational basis, a union school having, up to this time, been conducted by this and other Churches. The Sunday school in 1883 was officered as follows: Superintendent, P. J. Layne; secretary and treasurer, Dr. J. B. Richards. Jessie Richards

is organist for both Church and school. The Church now has an effective membership of about fifty. The enrolled membership of the school is about fifty, with an average attendance of about forty.

Rev. I. B. Bickford, present pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Viroqua, was born June 7, 1847. When five years of age he accompanied his parents to Illinois. He was educated in the public schools of that State, and at Hillsdale College, Mich. Previous to entering the ministry he was engaged as a newspaper publisher for some time. He published the Creton *Times* in Ogle Co., Ill., for a couple of years, and was editor of the Byron *News*, in the same county, for three years. He entered the ministry in 1879, and was admitted to the Western Wisconsin Conference, at La-Crosse, Sept. 24, 1879. He was stationed at Onalaska three years before coming to Viroqua

The first services by the Christian Church were held in 1852, by Rev. Daniel Parkinson, who organized a society here in 1854. It had forty members. The first elders were David Ayers and Charles Wright. John Gardner was one of the first deacons. Some of the leading members of the Church then were: Thomas Cheatham and wife, John Dawson, Stephen Powell, Elijah Powell, Elizabeth Goode and Mary Parkinson. The year following the organization, the society nearly doubled in numbers. It was at that time the leading Church in Viroqua. Rev. Parkinson died in September, 1856. He was a man of fine ability. He was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Howe, who preached for the society for two years. He died several years ago. The next minister was their present one, Rev. John Hurd, who at that time remained with the Church about two years, until May, 1863. Since that time the following ministers have served the society: Revs. Henry Anderson, R. D. Cotton, George G. Hamilton and Florence Reece, who was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. John Hurd. The present membership of the Church is seventy-five. The church building was erected in 1856. It is a frame building, 30x40 feet in size, neatly finished and will comfortably seat 250 persons. The society has had a Sunday school in operation most of the time since its organization, and both Church and Sunday school are now in a flourishing condition. The present officers are as following: Pastor, John Hurd; elders, Philip Bidison, Edward Minshall and Elijah Powell; deacons, Ellis Thompson and 'Squire Tony.

Rev. John Hurd was born in England in 1823. He came to the United States with his parents when a child, settling in Ohio. In the fall of 1836 he removed to Michigan. He was educated at Hiram College, Ohio; during two years of his attendance at that institution, James A. Garfield was its president. Mr. Hurd began preaching in 1860, and has been engaged in the work ever since. He is an earnest and faithful worker for the cause of Christianity.

The first Congregational society of Viroqua was organized on the 12th of May, 1855. There being present, Revs. L. L. Radcliff, of Viroqua, W. F. Avery, of Sparta, and Warren Bigelow, of Black River Falls. The following were the first members of the Church: Mrs. Jane S. Weeden, Mrs. Abbie S. Weeden, Mrs. Mary L. Radcliff, W. A. Herron, Mrs. Mary Herron and Mrs. N. B. Palmer. Rev. L. L. Radcliff was the first pastor, having been sent here by the American Home Missionary Society. He commenced his labors on the 5th of October, 1854, and continued his labors with the Church until Oct. 1, 1855, when he removed to Prairie du Chien. The Church remained without a pastor, only enjoying occasional preaching, until May, 1859, when Rev. G. C. Judson became pastor, remaining with the Church until September, 1861. He was succeeded by Rev. B. S. Baxter in October, 1862, who remained with the Church for two years. In November, 1866, Rev. L. L. Radcliff again became pastor of the Church, but owing to difficulties arising in the Church and

society, his labors terminated in May, 1869. May 1, 1870, Rev. John G. Taylor, a member of the Chicago Theological Seminary, became acting pastor and served as such until Oct. 1, 1870, when Rev. S. E. Lathrop was called to the pastorate. The present pastor is the Rev. Mr. Horn. The society has a very neat frame building located just east of the main part of town on the corner of Court and Yancy streets.

The first Sunday school organization in Viroqua was effected by Rev. L. L. Radcliff, in May, 1855. James E. Newell was elected superintendent and R. C. Bierce assistant. Mrs. Mary L. Radcliff, H. Trowbridge, Mrs. Abbie S. Weeden and R. C. Bierce, were teachers. It was organized as a union school and kept as such until the Methodist society organized a school of their own in the winter af 1866. The following persons were at various times superintendents of the union school: Henry Nichols, R. C Bierce, H. Trowbridge, Alson Keeler, L. W. Nichols and J. D. Brothers.

The Congregational Sunday school was organized in 1866. Among the early superintendents were: E. C. Smith, A. K. Burrell, L. W. Nichols and R. C. Bierce. The school is now in a most flourishing condition.

Rev. O. P. Peterson, the present presiding elder, first introduced the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal Church to his countrymen in Vernon county by preaching at the private residence of Ole Running in the year 1852. Coon and Round Prairies, with other territory extending into adjoining counties, was organized into a mission known then and now as the Coon Prairie mission, with Rev. O. B. Knudson as preacher in charge, and the first organization of a class was by him at the Asbury school house on section 23, town 13, range 4 west, in July, 1854. John C. Spellum was appointed class leader; and of the members were: Ole Running and wife, John C. Spellum and wife, Ole Hanson and wife, John Meyer and wife, Osten Kjelland and wife, Bernt Thompson and wife and Lars Springer and wife. Ole Running was appointed steward.

From this beginning the work gradually extended throughout the Norwegian settlements in the county, different points being from time to time opened up by the earnest, aggressive missionary spirit and labors of the ministers in charge. The Norwegian people, almost without exception, came to the county trained and indoctrinated in the Lutheran Church, the State Church of Norway, and their conversion to Methodist doctrines and usages has been attended with peculiar difficulties; and especially so when later the Lutheran Church founded a society, with a resident priest on Coon Prairie, and interposed strenuous opposition to the introduction of Methodism.

Classes were formed at Bad Ax, Chaseburg, Enterprise and Esofea and are still maintained. The membership being scattered it is customary in addition to the regular services at the points named to hold grove and camp-meetings each summer and preaching in different school houses and private residences throughout the the year.

A church building was erected in 1866 on section 26, town 14, range 4 west, the site for the church and a burying ground having been donated to the society by Christian Songstad in 1863, at which time the burying ground was formally dedicated.

The building was 24x36 feet and cost $800 and was erected under the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Johnson and presiding eldership of Rev. O. P. Peterson; the dedication occurred in 1866 and was conducted by Rev. Mr. Wright, of Sparta. The board of trustees consisted of John C. Spellum, Soren Paulson and Lars Peterson. This church is now being replaced by one in process of erection at the village of Westby, 28x40 feet in dimensions, to cost about $1,200 and of ornamental design.

The pastors in order to the present time have been as follows:

Capt Henry Conner

O. B. Knudson, 1854–6; Nels P. Olson, 1857; A. Cedarholm, 1858; Samuel Anderson, 1859–60; P. Agrilius, 1861; J. C. Spellum, '862; C. Stenson, 1863–4; J. H. Johnson, 1865–7; C. F. Elsthlost, 1868–9; Christian Trieder, 1870; R. Olson, 1871–2; Jens Gertsen (supply), 1873–6; Christian Omand, 1877–9; Martinus Nelson, 1880; O. Jacobson, 1881–3; O. P. Peterson, 1883.

The present membership in the county is about 100 and the prospects for the future are full of promise.

The Church has truly come up to its present standing and strength under great difficulties, having to contend with popular prejudice on the part of the people among whom the work has been done, in addition to the obstacles always incident to pioneer work, and the success attending the efforts put forth has been wrought largely by the piety and perseverance of the men in charge.

Circumstances have been unfavorable to Sunday school work, though something has been done in this direction, and plans for the future contemplate special efforts.

INCORPORATION.

Viroqua was incorporated in the spring of 1866. The first meeting of the council was held on the 1st of June, 1866. The first officers of the incorporation were as follows: Carson Graham, president; W. S. S. White, I. K. Buck and C. M. Butt, trustees; John R. Casson, clerk; A. K. Burrell, constable; J. S. Tinker street commissioner; John Dawson, treasurer.

The officers from 1867 to 1883, were as follows:

1867—Carson Graham, president; Edward Coe, J. H. Tate and J. E. Newell, trustees; J. R. Casson, clerk; Warren Dunlap, marshal and street commissioner.

1868—C. M. Butt, president; J. H. Tate, W. S. Purdy and Nathan Coe, trustees; James Morton, marshal and street commissioner; James Morton, clerk.

1869—C. M. Butt, president; J. S. Metcalf, R. S. McMichael, trustees; W. S. S. White, marshal; John Dawson, treasurer; P. J. Layne, clerk.

1870—C. M. Butt, president; H. A. Chase, C. C. Brown and A. L. Russell, trustees; B. F. Purdy, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; A. K. Burrell, police justice; S. C. Lincoln, marshal and street commissioner.

1871—William Nelson, president; A. L. Russell, Calvin Morley and W. A. Gott, trustees; John Dawson, treasurer; John Gordon, marshal and street commissioner; P. J. Layne, clerk.

1872—William Nelson, president; C. M. Butt, Carson Graham and O. C. Weeden, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; J. E. Newell, justice; E. S. Goodell, marshal and street commissioner.

1873—William Nelson, president; Carson-Graham, C. M. Butt and O. C. Weeden, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; James E. Newell, justice; E. S. Goodell, marshal and street commissioner.

1874—D. A. Barnard, president; C. M. Butt, J. H. Tate and N. Coe, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; J. E. Newell, justice; E. S. Goodell, constable; William Everson, street commissioner.

1875—D. A. Barnard, president; C. M. Butt, N. Coe, J. H. Tate, C. C. Brown, Alex Gorsline, J. W. Greenman, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk.

May, 1875—Carson Graham, president; W. F. Lindemann, C. C. Brown, M. C. Nichols, Joseph Pulver, Alexander Gorsline and B. F. Purdy, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; J. E. Newell, justice.

1876—E. M. Rogers, president; B. F. Purdy, E. A. Stark, N. Coe, I. W. Blake, Ed Lind and H. P. Proctor, trustees; D. A. Barnard, treasurer; J. E. Newell, justice; P. J. Layne, clerk; W. N. Carter, village attorney; W. T. Nottingham, marshal.

1877—D. A. Barnard, president; H. P. Proctor, E. A. Stark, B. F. Purdy, Ed Lind, William Lake and P. N. Shumway, trustees; W. S. Purdy, justice; E. Minshall, street commissioner; J. E. Slade, marshal; W. N. Carter, attorney; John Dawson, treasurer.

1878—E. M. Rogers, president; E. A. Stark, H. P. Proctor, William Stricker, Silas Haskell, Joseph Pulver and C. M. Butt, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; John Dawson, treasurer; W. F. Terhune, justice; E. S. Goodell, marshal; Edward Minshall, street commissioner.

1879—E. M. Rogers, president; J. E. Newell, C. Graham, C. M. Butt, H. P. Proctor, E. A. Stark and S. W. Wait, trustees; P. J. Layne, clerk; F. A. Holden, marshal and street commissioner; W. F. Terhune, justice, (resigned and was) succeeded July, 1879, by H. C. Forsyth.

1880—Carson Graham, president; J. R. Casson, H. D. Williams, Joseph Pulver, Mr. Morgan, E. A. Stark and C. M. Butt, trustees; C. A. Roberts, clerk; W. W. Dunlap, street commissioner.

1881—H. P. Proctor, president; C. M. Butt, E. A. Stark, O. B. Wyman, E. H. Craig, W. H. Pulver and F. Minshall, trustees; E. M. Rogers, treasurer; C. A. Roberts, clerk; S. H. Gorsline, street commissioner.

1882—O. B. Wyman, president; E. A. Stark, F. Minshall, E. H. Craig, Peter Nelson, Fred Eckhart, Nathan Coe, W. H. Pulver, Thomas Jerman, trustees; A. W. Campbell, clerk; F. M. Minshall, street commissioner.

1883—H. P. Proctor, president; C. M. Butt, J. H. Tate, Mr. Curry, E. A. Stark, R. S. McMichael, Joseph Pulver, M. C. Nichols, trustees; W. S. Field, clerk; H. C. Forsyth, justice; John Dawson, treasurer, Frank Minhsall, marshal.

TOWN OF VIROQUA.

The town of Viroqua embraces all of congressional township 13, range 4 west, the two northern tiers of sections, and sections 13, 14, 23 and 24 of township 12, range 4 west. It is bounded on the north by the town of Christiana; on the east by Webster and Liberty; on the south by Kickapoo and Franklin; and on the west by Franklin and Jefferson. The surface of this town is generally broken and hilly yet it contains some of the finest agricultural lands in the county. The eastern and northeastern parts of the town are made up of rolling prairie, interspersed, here and there, with small groves. The balance of the town was originally covered with heavy timber; but much, if not the greater part of this, has been cleared away by the thrifty and enterprising settlers, and there are now valuable farms in all parts of the town.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The early history of this town is to a great degree identical with that of the village, as most of the early settlers clustered about Viroqua. However, some of the most prominent first settlers will be noted.

The first settlement in the town was made in 1846. During August, of this year, George Ensign and Samuel Ingram came and located upon farms in this town. Mr. Ensign sold out about twenty years ago and left the country. Samuel Ingram remained until 1880, when he sold out and moved to California.

T. J. DeFrees, Solomon Decker and John Harrison came during the same year. The two former are treated elsewhere at length. John Harrison took a claim which included what is now known as the See Spring. The farm he located upon is now owned by Elijah Tilton. Harrison erected a saw mill on the west branch of the Kickapoo which was one of the first in the county. He afterward sold out and went to Missouri.

RELIGIOUS.

There are two Church organizations in the town of Viroqua, outside of the village.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church on Coon Prairie, was organized in 1853, by Rev. H. A. Stub. The first members were: Ole A. Running, John C. Spellum, P. Eggen, Michael Larson, Svend Svendson, Erik Torkilsen, Hans Jenson, Gullik Olsen, Bernt Larson, Hover Sig-

bjornson, John Clemmetson, N. E. Nilsson, Halvor Bjornson, Clemmet C. Berg, Lars A. Tollakson, Jacob A. Tormeson, Gullik Torkelson, Halvor Johnson, Reinhard Aslakson, Enoch Enochsen, Sigbjorn Aslakson, Lars Galstad, Hendrik Johnson, Christen Hanson, Christian Hoversen, Tjostal Amundson, Johannes Johnson, Even Olsen and Ole Tostensen.

The first officers of the Church were: H. A. Stub, pastor; Tjostol Amundson, Thomas Johnson and Lars Christoferson, trustees. The first religious service was held in Han's Naprud's house, now belonging to his son E. H. Naprud.

H. A. Stub served as pastor from 1854 to 1861, when he resigned on account of failing health. He is still living, in Winneshiek Co., Iowa, where his congregations at present are situated. Rev. Stub's successor was Rev. A. C. Preus, who served as pastor from 1863 to 1872, when failing health compelled him to resign his position and return to Norway, where he died, as bishop, in 1878. After Rev. Preus came Rev. H. Halvorsen, the present pastor.

The first house of worship was a small frame building, 55x32 feet, costing about $2,000. It was dedicated in 1858. This church soon became unable to accommodate the growing number of the congregation, and in 1875 the erection of a capacious stone building, in the gothic style of architecture, was commenced.

Its interior is not yet finished, but religious services have been held there for the past five years.

This is without doubt the grandest church building in Vernon county, its size being 100x50 feet, tower projecting nine feet; height of spire 150 feet. Its present cost is $20,000. It stands on a beautiful elevation, overlooking Coon Prairie, and the surrounding country. The present condition of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church is prosperous, the number of the voting members is 200. The present officers of the Church are: H. Halvorson, pastor; P. P. Hektoen, secretary and treasurer; John Clemmetson, C. A. Morterud, Anders Jenson Peder Halvorson, Edward Theige, Nils T. Nilson, Lars Hovde and Ole G. Hanson, trustees.

The Methodist Episcopal society was organized in 1854, by the Reverend Bishop, with twenty-two members. Philip Adams was class leader. The membership was afterwards increased to sixty. A log church was erected in 1860, on section 22, which is still in use. The Church is not at present in a very flourishing condition, as many of the members have gone elsewhere, while others attend Church at Viroqua. The following are among the pastors who have filled the pulpit for the society at different times: Revs. Bishop, Purdun, Cooley, Fitch and Hartshorn.

EDUCATIONAL.

From the following brief description of the various districts in this town, it will be seen that educational facilities are excellent.

District No. 2 is a joint district. It has a fair building, in a pleasant location, which is well furnished. The school has a good attendance.

District No. 3 is also a joint district. It has a good frame building well furnished. The attendance is fair.

District No. 4 has also a fair school building. The population here is chiefly Norwegian.

District No. 5 embraces the village of Viroqua.

District No. 6 will soon abandon the old school building, as a new one is being erected at a cost of about $400, which will be ready for the winter term of school in 1883–4.

District No. 7 has a good building which is well ventilated and furnished. The attendance is good.

District No. 8 has a small but comfortable school building pleasantly located on Coon Prairie. The population here is almost wholly Norwegian.

District No. 9 has a fair building but it is in a poor location. The attendance is usually good.

In district No. 10 the old school building was burned down some months ago and a new one has been erected.

ORGANIC.

The name of the town of Viroqua was formerly Farwell. As a general chapter is devoted to the creation and changes of name and boundaries of towns, it is unnecessary to here refer to the various changes through which the town of Viroqua has passed in assuming its present limits.

In 1883 the officers of the town of Viroqua were as follows: Supervisors, Elijah Tilton, chairman, Lars Christianson, and Seth McClurg; town clerk, P. J. Layne; treasurer, M C. Berg; assessor, Marvin Henry; justices of the peace, C. A. Roberts, J. E. Newell, H. C. Forsyth and Lars T. Larson; constables, E. S. Goodell, J. J. Silbaugh and E. H. Morrison.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

The wealth and prominence of any county naturally finds a location in or near its county seat. Viroqua is no exception to this rule and the following named citizens represent a fair proportion of the financial, business and intellec ual forces that materially influence the moral progress and industrial growth of Vernon county.

James Foster is one of the pioneers of Vernon county. He came of the old Connecticut military stock that settled on the western reserve, in northeastern Ohio. He was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, in 1814, and has been a resident of this State since 1835. At that date his father's family, together with five other families, went to Wellsville, Columbiana Co., Ohio, and there loaded all their household effects, provisions, stock and families on a keel boat and floated down the Ohio to the mouth of the Cumberland river, where they secured the services of a steamboat to tow them to St. Louis, Mo. At this point they had their boat attached to another steamboat and followed in its wake up the beautiful "Father of Waters" to Prairie du Chien, in Crawford Co., Wis. Here they rested from their long and tedious journey and all finally made permanent settlements in Crawford and Grant counties. Mr. Foster's father was a millwright by trade and shortly after his arrival was employed to erect a saw mill in Grant county, which was one of the first mills in southwestern Wisconsin. He located in Crawford county, but only lived about two years after he made a settlement. His wife also died at about the same period. James Foster lived in and near Prairie du Chien until 1847, when he came to what was then Bad Ax (now Vernon) county and located on a quarter section of government land in Viroqua town. He still resides where he first settled and owns ninety acres of his first purchase. Mr. Foster has almost reached his three score and ten and about fifty of these weary years have been spent among the earlier scenes of Wisconsin's history. He has given the better portion of his life to assist in developing one of the grandest States in our Union and he deserves all the praise that tongue can speak or pen can trace. It is to be hoped that his future years on earth may be generously supplied with all the comforts of old age. His wife was Diantha Wells, born in Perry Co., Ohio, in 1828. Her parents were Benjamin and Eleanor Wells, who settled at Viroqua in 1849. The father died here many years ago and the mother afterward removed to Oregon with a son and there passed away from earth. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have one son, Silas, born here in 1851. He married Emily, daughter of Baker and Catharine Graham, one of the well known pioneers of Vernon county. In 1861, he enlisted in the 14th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, served about six months and was discharged on account of disability. In 1842 Mr. Foster entered the United States army and served through the Mexican War. For this service he received, in 1844, the land warrant for his present farm.

Nathan Coe is a son of Isaac Coe, who settled in Franklin town, Vernon county, in 1848. Isaac Coe was a native of Maryland but removed

westward and located near Columbus, Ohio. He removed from the town of Franklin to the town of Utica, Crawford Co., Wis., in 1852, and in 1860 went to California, where he died in 1869. His widow departed this life at Viroqua in 1872. They were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters. Nathan was born in Zanesville, near Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1827, but was reared at Columbus. He came to this county with his father, in 1848, from Lafayette Co., Wis., where the family had resided for about two years. Nathan also made a claim on section 1, in Franklin town, which land he owned until 1882. In the spring of 1850 he joined the "madly rushing throng" on its way to the newly discovered gold fields of California, taking the overland route. He there remained for two years. He then returned to Franklin town and made that his home until 1864, the date of his removal to Viroqua. Mr. Coe has been engaged in farming the greater portion of his life and has also been an extensive dealer in real estate. He has owned at various times a large number of farms and his business transactions have been uniformly successful. He was united in the bonds of holy wedlock to Mary, a daughter of James Lawrence, who settled at Liberty Pole, in Vernon county, in 1851, and now resides at De Soto. Mrs. Coe is a native of England. She is the mother of four daughters and one son—Attilla, Julia, Ida, Edward and Charity. Mr. Coe owns a farm of 115 acres, adjoining the village of Viroqua. Mr. Coe has been twice honored by his neighbors and friends by election to the office of sheriff.

Rev. James A. Cook was one of the pioneer Methodist preachers of Vernon county. He was also one of the earliest settlers, having located on section 4, town 12, range 4, Viroqua town, in July, 1848. He was born in Kentucky March 4, 1824 and removed with his parents to Illinois when two years of age. Here he grew to manhood. At ten years of age he was converted, and was a class leader many years before entering the ministry. He commenced preaching as a local minister soon after coming to this town, and continued in the ministry until near the close of his life, Aug. 13, 1881. His wife still lives on the claim which he located in 1848. Mr. Cook labored faithfully in the cause of his Master during the years when to be an itinerant minister of the Methodist Church required long journeys, exposure to all kinds of weather, and such accommodations as pioneer life afforded. He was twice married. His first wife was Susanna Hay, who died in Viroqua town in December, 1859, leaving eight children, three sons and five daughters, six of whom are living. Mr. Cook married Mrs. Juliann M. Shaner in September, 1860. She was born in Perry Co., Ohio, and came to Wisconsin with her husband, Dr. Martin Shaner, in 1854. Dr. Shaner was drowned in the Kickapoo river at Readstown, June 9, 1857, in an attempt to rescue two children, who had fallen into the river, from drowning. Mrs. Cook had four children by her first marriage—Abbie, Daniel F., Learoy S. and Albert. Mr. Cook's youngest child, Hobart, and a daughter of Mrs. Cook, Martha Jane, were killed in the tornado of 1865, being two of the victims who perished by the destruction of the school house on that memorable day, June 28, of that year.

Elias H. Naprud is the son of Hans Nelson Naprud, who settled on section 4, Viroqua town, in August, 1848. Hans Nelson Naprud is one of the earliest Norwegian settlers of the town. He emigrated to the United States with his family in 1847, coming to Vernon county the following year. He had five children, four of whom are living—Nels, Gilbert, Helen and Elias H. Elias H., the youngest child, was born in Norway, in November, 1836. He married Betsy Brathlie, daughter of Christopher Brathlie. They have four children—Andrena, Leedwig, Laura and Nordahl. Elias H. occupies the homestead farm, which contains 200 acres. His mother died on the homestead in 1874, his father in 1875.

Wendell H. Pulver was one of the early settlers of Jefferson town. He was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., in 1793. He was a soldier of the War of 1812. He married and settled in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and thence to Ontario county about 1836. He came with his family to Kenosha, Wis., in 1847, and to Rock county the following year, where the family lived till 1855, when they came to Vernon county, and settled at Springville, in the town of Jefferson, where he lived until his decease. He was a wagon maker by trade, and is said to have built the first wagon made in Vernon county. He died in 1871; his wife, Rachel (Teager) Pulver, died before the decease of her husband. They had six children, five of whom are living—Mrs. Mary A. Fish, Mrs. Catharine Waterman, David H., born in 1834, in Schoharie Co., N. Y.; Oliver H., born in Ontario Co., N. Y., and William H., born in Ontario Co., N. Y., in 1840. The eldest son, John N., was born in Schoharie county in 1821; was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and died in the hospital at Madison, Ind. Daniel H. and William H. came to Viroqua from Springville, and engaged in wagon making and blacksmithing in 1879. Previous to that time they were engaged in the same business at Springville. David H., married Susan A. Wade; and William H., Elizabeth Wade.

William S. Purdy was one of the early settlers of Sterling town, and during his thirty years' residence in Vernon county held high offices of trust and honor, and possessed the confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a native of Carlisle, Sullivan Co., Ind., born Aug. 28, 1822. His father died when he was eleven years of age and at fifteen he was apprenticed to a saddler of his native place to learn the trade. He worked at his trade for fifteen years, and in 1845 came west to the territory of Wisconsin. He was for a time engaged in mining, and afterward worked at his trade at Mineral Point for a few months In 1849 he sought a new location in what was then the town of Bad Ax, Crawford county, but now in the town of Sterling. He was largely identified with the early history and growth of that section of the county, and during his residence there held nearly all the town offices, read law and was admitted to practice. He resided on the farm ten years, and finally gave up his early and well-tried associations and removed to Viroqua to accept the office of clerk of the circuit court, a position, to which he had been elected, and which he filled for eight years, during which time he served one year in the State Senate. He was elected county judge in 1869, and subsequently re-elected, serving two successive terms. Judge Purdy was married in 1846 to Jane E. Lemen, also a native of Indiana. They have been blessed with eight children—Brice F., Kossuth F., William R., Henry H., Ella M., Frank, Ed, and Ida M. Only two of this large family are yet residents of Vernon county—Brice F. and William R. In 1878, on account of failing health, and thinking that a change might prove beneficial, Judge Purdy removed to Pratt Co , Kan, where he now resides. Brice F. Purdy, the eldest son, is a harness maker of Viroqua. He was born in Iowa Co., Wis., in 1849, just previous to his parents removal to this county. He learned his trade with his father and embarked in the business in 1871. Mr. Purdy married Hattie Coe, a sister of Nathan Coe. They have four children—William, Myrtle, Ella and an infant son.

Peter Hay located in the fall of 1850 on sec- 3, town 12, range 4 west, where he still resides. He was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1818. When twenty-one years of age he moved with his parents to Wayne Co., Ill. His father, Jonathan Hay, settled in Viroqua town in 1851, and died in 1868. Mr. Hay was married in Illinois to Mary Clarke, born in that State. They have had eight children, six of whom are living—Jonathan, Eliza Jane, John, Mary M., Martha E. and James. The names of their deceased children were—Peter and Julia. All

except the two eldest were born in Viroqua. Mrs. Hay's father, Samuel Clarke, was a native of Kentucky. Her brother, Samuel Clarke, came to this town with Mr. Hay. He enlisted during the Rebellion and died while in the service. Their oldest son, Jonathan, was born in Illinois in 1848. He married Marcella Adams, born in Ohio. She died and he was again married. Mr. Hay has three children by his second wife—Mary Jane, Pearly and Frank. Jonathan enlisted in 1864 in company B, 50th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war. Peter Hay's farm originally contained 240 acres. He has now 200 acres of land.

O. O. Kelland, Jr., is the son of O. O. Kelland who settled on the northeast quarter of section 7, Aug. 14, 1851, where his son now lives. Mr. Kelland, Sr., was one of the earliest Norwegian settlers in Viroqua town. He was born in Norway in 1797, and was there married to Anna C. Kelland. He came to the United States with his wife and four children in 1851, settling immediately in Vernon Co., Wis. He bought his farm, containing 107½ acres, of the State of Wisconsin, and lived thereon until his death, which occurred in 1877, he having resided on the farm for twenty-six years. Mrs. Kelland is still living. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelland in this town. The names of their children are—Bertha, residing in Blue Earth Co., Minn.; Mary Lesilet, residing in Jefferson town, this county; Mary Ann, also in Blue Earth Co., Minn; Ellen B., deceased; Christina, Sarah and Lars, deceased. O. O. Kelland, Jr., was born in Norway in 1844. He now owns and resides on the homestead. He married Olena C. Oleson, who died in 1872. Mr. Kelland has had two children, one of whom is living—Anna.

One of the prominent and successful farmers of Viroqua town is Nels J. Rudie. He was born in Norway, July 12, 1829, and emigrated to the United States in 1851, coming direct to this town. He worked in the Black river pineries till 1853, when he entered 160 acres of land on section 6, where he still resides. He has since added 200 acres to his first purchase, besides 200 acres in other adjoining towns, and has made good improvements thereon. He was married July 27, 1859, to Marith H. Dahl, born in Norway, April 4, 1836. They have six children living and two dead—John N., born April 6, 1860; Amalie N., born Dec. 15, 1862, died in August, 1864; Hans Myer, born April 27, 1865; Theodore Amandus, born Nov. 18, 1867; Normand N., born Sept. 16, 1871, died in July, 1872; Hannah Marie, born Sept. 11, 1873; Nordahl N., born July 26, 1876, and Amalie Elizabeth, born April 9, 1880.

Ananias Smith has resided in Vernon county thirty-two years, and from a poor man has risen to be one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the county. He came here from Rock Co., Wis., in June, 1851, with a yoke of oxen, a pair of steers and $7 in money. He bought 163 acres of land on section 31, Viroqua town, and commenced life anew. Half of this land was heavily timbered, but Mr. Smith possessed a good constitution, unlimited energy, and a determination to succeed, and a glance at his present possessions shows that he has succeeded. He owns 600 acres of the finest land in Vernon county, and his first cabin of logs has given way to a handsome farm residence. His stock is of the best breeds, especially his horses, in which he takes great interest and pride. He also owns the Park Hotel at Viroqua. Mr. Smith was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., in 1821, and when a small boy removed with his parents to Duchess county, in the same State. His father, Nathaniel Smith, died in Duchess county, and his mother, Hannah Smith, afterward came to Vernon county, and here departed this life. Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Sarah N. Jerman, a native of Schoharie Co., N. Y. They have four children—Helen, wife of Frank Southwick, of Salem, Oregon; Rena, wife of LeRoy Hyles; Antoinette and Albert.

John C. Spellum came here in 1851, being one of the earliest settlers of the town. He first entered eighty acres, for which he paid $100, afterward entering another eighty at a cost of $50 per forty acres, now owning 160 acres, located on sections 17 and 20. Mr. Spellum was born in Norway, in 1820. He came to the United States in 1846, landing at Milwaukee, Wis., in July of that year. He was the only one of his family coming at that time, but a brother, Elias C., followed him and now resides in Nebraska. Mr. Spellum was married to Anna Thompson, also a native of Norway; and coming to this county with her parents in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Spellum have had ten children, seven of whom are living—Nellie, Sadie, Libbie, John R., Chris, Albert and Oscar. They were all born in this town. Mr. Spellum has been a member of the town board eleven years.

Thomas Thompson is a native of Norway, born in 1820. He emigrated with his parents to the United States in 1846, settling in Racine Co., Wis. In July, 1851, he came to Vernon county, settling on State land on section 17, Viroqua town. His parents removed to this county in 1852. They are now deceased. In 1856 Mr. Thompson purchased, of Ole Anderson, a farm of 120 acres on section 8, Viroqua town, where he still resides. He has a valuable farm, with good improvements, all made by himself. Mr. Thompson married Mary Severson. She was also a native of Norway, and came to this county with her parents in 1852. They have ten children, two boys and eight girls—Ellen M., Anna C., Tolena A., Elizabeth M., Thomas, Sarah B., Matilda, Nora R., Minnie H. and Nordahl L. The changes which have taken place in the development of the country since Mr. Thompson's location here, have been great. His nearest markets were Prairie du Chien and La Crosse. He frequently drove an ox team to the latter place and back, the trip consuming about five days.

Marvin Henry resides on section 32, where he owns 118 acres of land; has also eighty acres on section 34. He bought the former of Jesse Green and J. D. Brothers. Mr. Henry settled in Vernon county in 1852. He was born in Oakland Co., Mich., town of Southfield, sixteen miles from Detroit, in 1827. He lived there until his ninth year, when he removed to Indiana with his parents, Marvin and Elizabeth Henry. The former was a native of Massachusetts, and died in Indiana, in the fall of 1840. The latter was born in New York, and died in the town of Kickapoo, Vernon county, November, 1860. In 1841 Mr. Henry removed with his mother's family to Illinois, where he grew to manhood, married and came to this county with his family in 1852, his residence in this county dating from May 9 of that year. At the time of his removal to Wisconsin, his family consisted of his wife and one child—Laura A. He settled on section 25, in what is now Jefferson town, where he purchased a farm of State land, which he improved and occupied for sixteen years, when he removed to the town of Viroqua. His wife was Elizabeth Hall, a sister of Ralph Hall, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Henry have had ten children, nine living—Laura A., John T., Rossetta I., Christopher E., George D., Ralph S., Andrew T., Tamma A. and Archibald A. They lost one daughter, Mary J. The parents of Mr. Henry had eleven children, six sons and five daughters; all of whom but one have been residents of Vernon county. Mrs. Mary Van Vlack, Marvin and Samuel are residents of the town of Viroqua. Mr. Henry has held various town offices; has assessed the town four times; was justice of the peace of the town of Jefferson four years, and a member of the town board three terms. In 1874 Mr. Henry met with a severe loss. His barn and grain stacks were burned, on which there was no insurance. His loss was about $2,000.

Marshall C. Nichols was born Jan. 17, 1838, near Warsaw, Hancock Co., Ill. His mother having died when he was eight years old, he was taken to Carthage, in the same county, where he remained until 1849, when he accompanied his father to Le Claire, Iowa, and from there to Viroqua, in 1852. In 1855, he went to Hamilton, Ohio, where he remained at school until 1857, when he returned to his home in Viroqua. Here he commenced the mercantile business in August, 1858, conducting the business alone until 1870, when he formed a partnership with L. W. Nichols, under the firm name of Nichols Bros. In 1877 L. W. Nichols retired from the firm, and he continued the business alone until August, 1882, when he sold his general stock to Clarke Bros., continuing in the drug business until 1883, when he disposed of his drug stock and retired from the active business pursuits. During the summer of 1864, the darkest days of the late war, when our country was earnestly calling for more volunteers, Mr. Nichols left his business in charge of others, volunteered, raised a company, and joined the 42d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; was commissioned captain of company I, and continued in command of the company until the close of the war. He arrived home June 29, 1865, and found his store building and merchandise had been destoyed by the terrible tornado which struck the place the day before. The following September he went to Norfolk, Va., where he engaged in the mercantile business, and remained there until the summer of 1866, when he returned Viroqua, and resumed charge of his business there. In the fall of 1882, Mr. Nichols was elected a member of the State Legislature, from the second district of Vernon county. On Sept. 11, 1867, he married Hettie M. Rusk, daughter of the late Dr. James Rusk. She was born in Morganville, Morgan Co., Ohio, March 30, 1843; removed, with her parents to Vernon county, in May, 1857. She was one of the graduating class of the Normal department of the State University, in 1865, and was one of the pioneer teachers, having taught before her marriage twelve terms in this county. They are the parents of six children—James Walter, born April 23, 1869, died May 11, 1870; Annie Delia, born July 11, 1871; Hettie Rusk, born Feb. 12 1874; Marshall C., Jr., born Dec. 27, 1879, died Jan. 6, 1881, and David Whitney, born April 12, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols are among the honored and respected citizens of Vernon county.

Stephen Stephenson is one of the settlers of 1852, having located on his present farm on section 17, Viroqua town, in July of that year. Mr. Stephenson came from Racine county to this place, coming over with an ox team and wagon. This team, with ten head of cattle, and ten cents in money constituted all his worldly possessions at that time. He worked in La Crosse the winter previous to settling here, at which time La Crosse contained but three small stores and two taverns for the accommodation of the traveling public. His farm originally contained eighty acres, but he has now 160 acres. He married Torand Thompson, a sister of T. Thompson and Mrs. Spellum. They have five children, all of whom, with the exception of the oldest, were born in Viroqua—Ellen, wife of Joseph Omundson, born Feb. 5, 1851; Mary Ann, wife of August Sweger, born March 4, 1853; Tolena, wife of Severt Larson, born March 1, 1855; Thomas, born March 10, 1858; Malena, born July 2, 1859.

J. W. Groves, dealer in musical instruments and sewing machines, is the only one engaged exclusively in this business in Viroqua. He became established in 1879. He was born in Perry Co., Ohio, in January, 1855, and was engaged in teaching for a number of years in Vernon county. He kept a book and stationery store for some time before engaging in his present business. He was married to Rachel E. Biehl, who was born in Illinois. They have one child—Regina. His father, H. S. Groves, was born March 28, 1830, in Perry Co., Ohio.

He came to Vernon county in 1853, entered land in Liberty town, and settled with his family two or three years later. In July, 1853, he married Elizabeth Evans, born in Muskingum Co., Ohio. Mr. Groves was a blacksmith by trade. He settled in Viroqua village in 1865, although he had worked here at his trade before that time. He died Feb. 2, 1874. His wife still lives in Viroqua. They had five children, three of whom are living—J. W., Louie and Asa E.

Hiram A. Hicok has resided in Vernon county since 1853, at which time he located in Viroqua village, working at his trade, that of a plasterer. He was the first to engage in plastering as a business in that village, and probably the first in the county. He is still engaged in that occupation, also calcimining and brick laying. Mr. Hicok was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., April 21, 1823, and was reared in that State. He married Mary Hanchett, born in Lisle town, Broome Co., N. Y., in 1819. They have one daughter—Mary M., born in December, 1849. She resides at home. One son, Simeon A., was born at Maine, Broome Co., N. Y., Feb. 2, 1848. He enlisted in the United States service in company B, 50th regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, on the 23d of February, 1865, and was discharged at Benton Barracks on the 13th day of April, 1865. He died June 5, 1881, in the insane asylum at Elgin, Ill. Mr. Hicok's father came with him to this county and died April 30, 1859. Mary Hicok is a poetess, taking generally for her topics scriptural passages.

Edward Silbaugh settled in Vernon Co., Wis., in 1853, living for one year in Franklin town. In 1854 he settled on section 25, Viroqua town, and entered a farm. In 1869 he bought a farm of Michael Canfield, on section 28, this town, which he has since made his home. Mr. Silbaugh was born in 1822, in Pennsylvania. He is the son of Philip and Jane Silbaugh. When thirteen years of age he removed with his parents to Ohio, coming from there to this county. His parents are now deceased. Mr. Silbaugh married Catharine, daughter of Henry and Anna M. Acker. She was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., removing with her parents to Ohio when fourteen years of age, and coming to Vernon county in 1869. Her father died in 1870 and her mother returned to Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Silbaugh have nine children—William A., Jacob J., Henry, Lewis, Jane, Mary A., Nancy, Lucy and Amy. The first five were born in Ohio, the others in Vernon county. All, with the exception of Mary A., are married. Mr. Silbaugh's homestead farm contains 160 acres. He has also sixty acres on sections 20 and 26. Like many other early settlers, Mr. Silbaugh had but little of this world's goods, but now has a comfortable home and well improved farm.

John Dawson is one of the early settlers of the county, having settled here in 1854. He owns a fine farm, containing about 200 acres, 130 of which are in cultivation. There is a good spring on the farm near the dwelling, affording an abundant supply of pure water. There is also a large, well conditioned orchard of many varieties of apples, plums, grapes and minor fruits, and covering an area of eight acres. Mr. Dawson was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, in 1832, and passed his early life in Morgan county, of his native State. He is of English parentage. In 1854 our subject came to Vernon Co., Wis., and for some time engaged in teaching. In 1856 he began a mercantile business at Viroqua, which he afterward extended by a branch store to the prairie north. He remained in trade almost continuously for thirteen years, during which time he married Martha, daughter of William H. Ady, also a native of Belmont Co., Ohio. The fruits of this union are three children—Miles M., Lucy R. and Jeremiah M. Since he sold out his stock of merchandise, Mr. Dawson has been chiefly engaged in general insurance business, although he devotes a portion of time to his farm.

Jesse Garrett was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1820, where he grew to manhood. He came

to Viroqua town, Vernon Co., Wis., in the spring of 1854, purchasing of Thomas Reed a claim on section 23. His original farm contained 160 acres, which he increased to 360 acres, 200 of which are improved. He has good buildings on his place. Mr. Garrett has been thrice married. His first wife was Lorena Allard. She died before Mr. Garrett came to Wisconsin. Subsequently he married Mary J., daughter of John McClurg, and after her death, was married to his present wife, Martha, daughter of Vanness Brown They have three children—Pennel, born Nov. 1, 1857, married Lucy, daughter of Edward Silbaugh; William, born July 11, 1859, married Elizabeth, daughter of Enoch Enochson; and Clarietta, born July 6, 1863. Mr. Garrett's father, Pennel Garrett, was a native of Pennsylvania. He lived to be over ninety years of age. Noah and John, brothers of Mr. Garrett, also settled in Vernon county. Noah enlisted in the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and John in the 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Both died in the service.

Jason Glenn came to Vernon Co., Wis., June 16, 1854. He is the son of Isaac Glenn, who was born in Ohio, Jan. 1, 1806, and came to this county with his family in June, 1854, settling on section 15, in the timber of Webster town. He was twice married. His first wife died in 1849, in Perry Co., Ohio. He had seven children, four of whom are living. Mr. Glenn died in 1862. Jason was born in Ohio, and came to this county with his father. He enlisted in the 35th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, serving from Nov. 16, 1863 to March 15, 1866. He was at the siege of Spanish Fort, and also took part in other important battles. Mr. Glenn married Clarinda Norris, daughter of Edward Norris, who settled in Webster town, Dec. 4, 1854. Mr. Norris was a native of Ohio, born March 14, 1816, and died April 4, 1863. Mr. Glenn resides on section 29, of Viroqua town.

James Hornby was born in London, Canada West. He is the son of George and Mary (Cutsforth) Hornby, natives of England. When ten years of age, he removed with his parents to Michigan. Mr. Hornby has resided in this county since July, 1854, when he entered land on section 26, Franklin town In 1868 he sold that farm, and came to Viroqua town, purchasing, of Elisha Berbout, his present farm, situated on section 7, town 12, range 4. Mr. Hornby has four children—Martha Louisa, living in Union Co., Iowa; Alfred L., Estella and Minnie. His farm contains 120 acres. Robert Hornby, brother of James, lives in Franklin town, Vernon county.

Thomas Jerman succeeded G. H. Bacon in the drug trade, in January, 1880. The latter had been in business only three months and is now a resident of Baraboo, Wis. Mr. Jerman was born in Norway, Aug. 14, 1846. His father, Soren Jerman, was born Jan. 8, 1812, and his mother, Dec. 16, 1810. They were the parents of six children, all natives of Norway, and five of whom are living—Peter, born June 3, 1835, a resident of Sterling town; Susan, wife of Andrew Thompson; Lottie, born Jan. 6, 1843; Thomas, born Aug. 14, 1846; Anna, born July 12, 1849; Elsie S., was born April 18, 1840, and is now deceased. In 1851 the family came over to these United States, and sought a new home in the then wild country of Bad Ax (now Vernon) county. They located in what is now known as Sterling town, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. The father died in that town Nov. 8, 1874, aged almost sixty-three years. His wife still survives him at the age of seventy-one. Thomas was a small child when he came to Vernon county, and in his early life he learned the practical lesson of hardship and privation. He has developed with the county, and few have been here longer, or witnessed more wonderful and interesting changes than the druggist of to-day. In early life, he was employed as a clerk in the town of Sterling, one year; Mt. Sterling, in Crawford Co., Wis., for five years, and was engaged in general merchandising at Rising Sun, Wis., for about a year. He then came to Viroqua, and previous to embarking in

business for himself, was a clerk for six years, in the general store of N. McRie. In 1882 he erected his present handsome and commodious quarters. The building is of frame, veneered with brick, 25x60 feet in size, containing a store room on the ground floor, and Mr. Jerman's residence above. In 1883 he erected another building, similar to the first, and adjoining the same. These buildings form one of the finest business blocks in the city. Mr. Jerman is a successful business man, and has built up a large trade. He married Blanche Terhune, daughter of Judge Terhune, one of the best known citizens of Vernon county. They have one son – Raymond L.

James H. Layne, of Viroqua, settled in the town of Franklin, in 1854. He purchased a farm which included what was afterward the village of Brookville, which latter place he laid out and platted. He was born in Amherst Co., Va., in 1812. He removed to Kentucky, in 1828, where he resided till 1852, when he removed to Macon Co., Ill. In the fall of 1853 he removed to Platteville, Wis., and came to this county, as before stated, in 1854. The farm that he owned in the town of Franklin, he purchased of Benjamin McCormick. Mr. Layne was one of the prominent early settlers of that town; was chairman of the board of supervisors several years, and represented his district in the State Assembly, in the session of 1862–3. On his removal to Viroqua, he bought the farm of William Good, which was settled by Moses Decker, one of the well known pioneers of Vernon county, and engaged in farming, and nursery and hop business. He is at present engaged with his son, Samuel P., in the sale of farming implements. Mr. Layne has been twice married. His first wife was Minerva May, a native of Kentucky. She died in 1879. His present wife was Mrs. Amanda Burnett. He had five children by his first marriage, one daughter and four sons; daughter died in childhood; sons all grew to maturity. Newton M. was born in Kentucky, in March, 1839. He studied law, was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of his profession. On the breaking out of the civil war, he raised company C, of the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Was elected captain on the organization of the company; was captured at Shiloh; was afterward exchanged, and participated in the siege of Vicksburg. He contracted a disease in the army of which he died.

Calvin Morley is one of the honored pioneers of Vernon county and Viroqua town. He came here from New York, his native State, in September, 1854. Mr. Morley was born in 1818, at Smyrna, Chenango county, where he grew to manhood. His parents, Abner and Amanda (Allen) Morley, were of New England stock, and located in New York after their marriage. At the age of sixteen years, Calvin was employed in a woolen factory, and continued in that business until 1853, when he learned the cabinet trade, and worked at it for one year. Upon coming to this county he preempted a farm in Viroqua town, on which he resided one year, and then removed to the village. In 1861 he enlisted in company C, 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Layne. He served about one year, and was discharged for disability. He participated in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth, and after the war, returned to Vernon county, and again engaged in the cabinet trade. He is the pioneer in that branch of trade, having first commenced in 1855. Mr. Morley's principal occupation is painting, which business he still follows. His wife was Elizabeth P. O'Toole, a native of Massachusetts, who removed to Utica, N. Y., with her parents when a small child. Mr. and Mrs. Morley have six children—William B., Margaret A., Fred, Frank E., Kate and Grace.

Aaron Riley lives on section 24, where he settled in September, 1854. He came to this town in July of that year. He has 160 acres of land which he bought of the government. He was born in Ohio; was married in Morgan

county of that State, to Elizabeth B., daughter of Robert Adams, who also came here in 1854. Mr. Riley has five children—Hugh B., Robert N., Cyrus F., James F. and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Riley are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Jacob Silbaugh, brother of Edward Silbaugh, settled on section 25, Viroqua town, in June, 1854, where he still resides. His farm contains 160 acres. Mr. Silbaugh was married in Ohio to Rebecca Jane Allen. They have four children—Louisa Catharine, wife of Philip Biterson; Frances Elmira, Luella Linora and Warren Haven.

Jerome S. Tinker is the son of Dr. E. W. Tinker, one of the early physicians of Viroqua town. Dr. Tinker was born in New York, in 1811. He was reared in Ohio, and studied medicine with Dr. Little, of Roseville, Muskingum Co., Ohio. About 1835 he began the practice of medicine in Rosseau, Morgan county, and in 1854 came to Viroqua. In September, 1836 he married Mary Nulton, who died June 26, 1881. He subsequently married again. In 1883 he removed to Missouri. He had eight children. Jerome S. was born in Rosseau, Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1837. He came with his father to Viroqua, and has continued to reside here since. He served in the War of Rebellion, in the 12th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was for a time engaged in the drug and grocery business in Viroqua, and also kept what is now the Tremont House, then called the North Star. His farm is on section 10, town 12, range 4, in this town.

Rev. John Whitworth, of Viroqua, is one of that sturdy and valiant band of pioneer preachers that are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and early carry into every new and straggling settlement the Gospel of righteousness. He is a native of England, born in Lincolnshire, in March, 1810. At the early age of fourteen years, he was thrown upon his own resources, and selected the farm as a healthy and vigorous training school for both mind and muscle. He entered the ministry as a Wesleyan local preacher of England, at about the age of twenty-seven years, and in 1849 was induced to emigrate to the United States of America. He lived at Janesville, Rock Co., Wis., for several years, and in 1854, made his first trip into Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, settling permanently the year following. He located land on sections 4 and 9, in Viroqua town, which he has disposed of recently. Mr. Whitworth was for several years a local and itinerant preacher of the M. E denomination. His first work in the cause of the Lord after coming to what is now Vernon county, was with the Bad Ax mission, which embraced a very large scope of country. He was afterward with the Lewis Valley Mission in LaCrosse county, but failing health caused him to desist his arduous duties for a time. Upon his recovery of his strength he was assigned to the Viola Mission, where he remained a short time, then with the Ontario Mission one-half year, then took charge of the Newton circuit for two and one-half years. He has resided alternately on his farm and in the village of Viroqua since 1855. Rev. Whitworth has been twice married; his first wife was Mary Dawson, a native of England, who died in 1874. His present wife was Mrs. Mary J. (Bort) Walrath.

Daniel W. Favor is a son of Jonathan Favor, who settled in Jefferson town, Vernon Co., Wis., where he lived until his death, in July 1854. He was a native of New Hampshire, but came to Vernon county from Illinois. His wife still lives on the homestead. Daniel W. was born in Erie Co., N. Y., in 1837. He, with his brother Philetus and sister Minerva, came to Jefferson township in April, making preparations for the family who came the following July. Jonathan Favor exchanged his farm in Illinois for a half section of land in Jefferson town. Daniel settled on eighty acres of this land, located on section 24, where he lived until 1877, when he removed to his present residence, the northeast quarter of section 33,

Viroqua town. He bought this farm of eighty-three acres of Dr. Tinker. He has a liberal supply of water on his place, having near his residence a fine spring of pure, cold water. He also has a fine stone quarry on his place. Mr. Favor was married to Cecelia, daughter of Alexander McConnell, April 23, 1861, an early settler of Jefferson town. They have had ten children, seven sons and three daughters—Cecil P., Oscar D., Lucius U., Loren D., Constantine A., Ambrosia C., Franklin C., Mattie R., William True and Mary E. They were all born in Jefferson town with the exception of the two youngest, who were born in Viroqua. Mrs. Favor's father remained here but a few years, returning to Indiana, his former residence. He died in Noble county, that State, May 4, 1879.

E. S. Goodell was born in Oswego Co., N. Y., in 1847. He removed to Marquette Co., Wis., with his parents, in 1851. In 1870 he engaged in the livery business in Viroqua, which business he continues to conduct. He was married to Helen Brown, whose father was an early settler in Greenwood township. His father, Merchant Goodell, came to Viroqua town with his family in 1855, settling on section 8 and removed to the village of Viroqua, in 1872, where he died July 29, 1883. The following notice we clip from one of the Viroqua papers:

Merchant Goodell was born at Charleston, Mass., Sunday, Sept. 4, 1808, and would therefore have been seventy-five years of age if he had lived till the 4th day of next September. He removed to New York State in 1840, and from thence to Marquette Co., Wis., in 1851, where he resided over three years, coming to Viroqua and settling in the northern part of the town, in 1855. In 1834 he was united in marriage to Miss Janette Comstock, and four children were born to them, three of whom are living.

Mr. Goodell was in every respect a good man. During his long life he "did unto others as he would have them do unto him." He was a member of the Methodist Church and a consistent Christian. His life was a pure and honorable one, upon which there was no stain. He enjoyed the friendship and respect of every one who knew him, for he was a good citizen, a true friend and a kind neighbor. His aged partner, with whom he had traveled the pathway of life so many years, and his sorrowing children have the sympathy of the whole community in their loss.

W. F. Lindemann is one of the earliest settler of Viroqua, and one of its most prominent and successful business men. He is at present engaged in the banking business with Gov. J. M. Rusk, and also in mercantile pursuits. He owns a fine farm of 560 acres on sections 19 and 20, of the town of Viroqua, and is extensively engaged in raising fine stock. Mr. Lindemann was born in Prussia, Dec. 30, 1832. He came to the United States in November 1850, landing at New Orleans, La. He went to St. Louis, Mo., and from thence to Johnstown, Penn., where a brother-in-law was then residing. His next move was to St. Paul, Minn., and in 1855, he came to Vernon county. He was first employed as a clerk in the store owned by Keeler & Capon. This firm's name was afterwards changed to Keeler & McMichael. In 1858 he become partner of H. Greve, his brother-in-law, he being the successor to Keeler & McMichael. In 1861 he sold out his interest to Mr. Greve and moved on a farm in the town of Sterling, Vernon county and returned to Viroqua in 1862, and in 1863, he embarked in the mercantile trade for himself. In 1868, he went to Sparta, in this State, and there engaged in mercantile pursuits, but was burned out one and a half years later, and returned to Viroqua. Mr. Lindemann was united in marriage to Rebecca Eckees, a native of Ohio. They are the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter—Henry, born in May, 1859, (is cashier of the bank,) Albon, born in May, 1862, is clerking in the store,

Regina, born Dec. 1, 1864, and Wille, born March 30, 1874

John McClurg was born in Mercer Co., Penn, in 1805, where he grew to manhood. He was married to Jemima Booth, born in Ohio. He came to Vernon county from Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1855. He purchased his farm of Noah Garrett, who died in the Union service during the war. It is situated on section 27, Viroqua town, and was originally owned by Jonathan Hay. Mr. and Mrs. McClurg have had eight children, six sons and two daughters—Mary Jane, Mrs Jesse Garrett, (deceased,) John B., residing in Sterling town, James, died in the war at Long Island, Manassah, died in the hospital at Helena, Ark., while in the service, Nancy, wife of W. S. Moore, Seth, who resides in this town, was also in the service, Luther, also enlisted, but died before entering the army, Sylvanus, who resides in Washington territory. In 1858 Mrs. McClurg died, and in July, 1859, Mr. McClurg married Mrs. Martha J. Payne, widow of Uri Payne. She was born in Lisle town, Broome Co., N. Y., in 1827, and was married in that State to Mr. Payne, coming to this county Sept 8, 1856. Mr. Payne died Jan. 3, 1857, of typhoid fever. He had not yet made a settlement. A son, George, died a short time previous to his father. Mr. and Mrs. McClurg have had three daughters, only one of whom is living—Eva, born in Viroqua town. Mrs. McClurg has lost two children by her first marriage.

William T. McConnell was born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1817. He removed with his parents, to LaGrange Co., Ind., in 1831. He removed to Vernon (then Bad Ax) county, June 29, 1855. In the fall of 1854, with his brother, Alexander, he had purchased nearly 1,000 acres of land, lying mostly in Jefferson town. They also purchased a saw mill there, with the intention of manufacturing lumber. William T., however, sold his interest in the mill to his brother Alexander, who operated it for several years. Subsequently they sold this tract of land to different parties. Mr. McConnell's first settlement in Wisconsin was in Crawford county, where he bought a half interest in a grist mill. He afterwards exchanged this for a farm in Jefferson town, on which he resided until 1882, when he came to Viroqua village and engaged in the grocery business. Mr. McConnell, during his agricultural life, paid much attention to the cultivation of fruit, being one of the earliest, as well as one of the most successful fruit growers in Vernon county. He experimented with various kinds of fruit trees for the purpose of discovering those best adapted to this region. He made the cultivation of apples a specialty, and the many premiums which he received is evidence of his success in fruit growing. Mr. McConnell took great interest in the organization and success of the Vernon County Agricultural Society, of which he was the presiding officer for several years. He was also its secretary one year, and treasurer a number of years. He is highly respected and esteemed as an upright and honorable citizen. Politically, Mr. McConnell is a democrat. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors, and has several times been a candidate for office, but while he has generally run ahead of his ticket, his party has been too much in the minority to elect him. He has been twice married. His first wife was Rhoda Moses. She died in Indiana. He subsequently married Sarah A. Caldwell, a native of Virginia. She died in August, 1882. He has two children by his first wife—Marshall A., who resides near Sioux Falls, Dak., and Rhoda. He has three children by his second wife—Homer, of Sioux Falls, Dak., Agnes and Ellen.

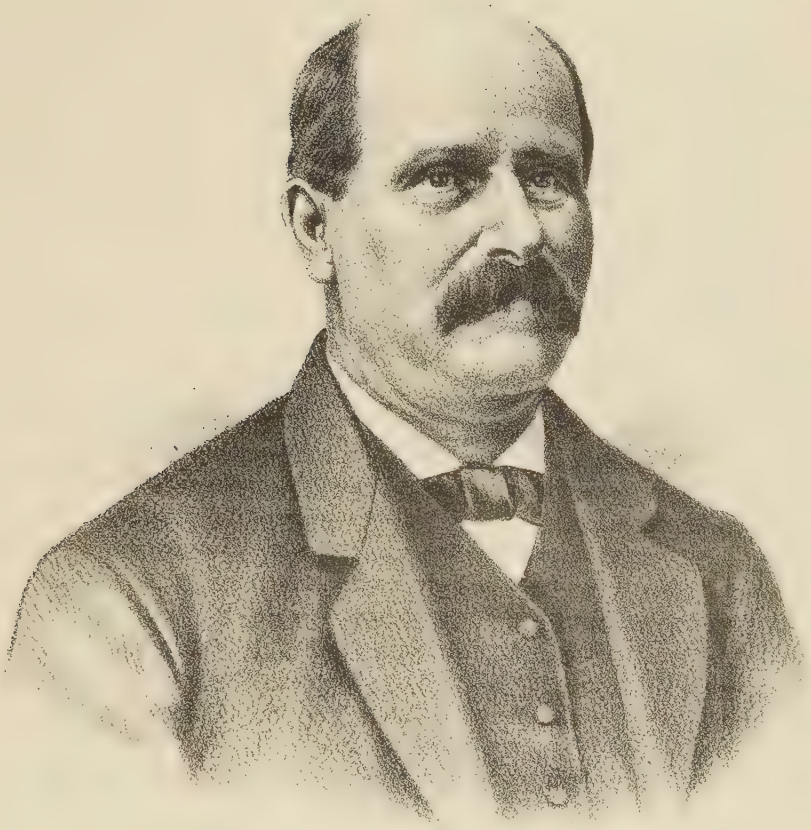
Hiram Moody was born in Waldo Co., Maine, in 1813. In the fall of 1817 he removed with his parents to Morgan Co., Ohio, where his father, Nathan Moody, resided till his death. He came to this county as early as 1853, entering at that time, 800 acres of timber land in Webster and Clinton towns. In 1855 he located on land in Jefferson town, part of which he

still owns. He has a farm of 120 acres in Jefferson town and also owns considerable property in the village of Viroqua, on which he now resides. He married Sarah Longstreth, born in Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1813. They have five children—James C., Catharine, Martha J., Nathan E. and Abigail. They lost one son—Bartholomew. Mr. Moody enlisted in the 14th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was transferred to the 3d Iowa Battery, and died while in the service at Corinth, Miss. One son, J. C. Moody, enlisted in company I, 6th Wisconsin regiment, where he attained especial honors for bravery. Our subject also enlisted in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, serving a full term of three years.

Nathan E. Moody is a son of Hiram Moody. He was born in Perry Co., Ohio, in 1849. In 1855 he came with his parents to Vernon county. He is engaged in the manufacture of brick at Viroqua. Brick had been manufactured from an early period in the history of this town, but the present yard was established in 1874. It has been operated by different individuals, and has been quite an important feature since the advent of railroads. The quality of the brick is good, and their durability has been proven by long use. Mr. Moody has had charge of the yard since 1878. In 1882 he manufactured 300,000 brick, supplying home trade only. There is but one other brick yard in Vernon county, located at Hillsborough. Mr. Moody married Martha, daughter of Rev. James A. Cook, born in Viroqua town in 1852. They have two children—Bertha and Jessie. They lost two daughters—Blanche and Edith, both of whom died when five years of age.

One of the successful farmers of the town of Viroqua is Michael Welch, who resides on section 10, town 12 north, of range 4 west, where he located in June, 1855. He bought his farm the previous winter of Abner Conkling. Mr. Welch was born of Irish parents, in the city of London, England, May 16, 1816. His father, Michael Welch, was a native of county Cork, Ireland, where he was married, and with his family went to London. From London he came to the United States, to secure a home for his family, which he left behind him. He secured work near Philadelphia, Penn., where he remained several years. He sent for his family about 1820. In the mean time, his wife had died. He removed with his children to Harrison Co., Ohio, and thence to Perry county in the same State, where he died in 1857, at the age of seventy-eight years. He married again after coming to this country; had four children by first marriage and three by his second union. Mr. Welch is the only survivor of the first children. On coming to this county in 1855 he purchased 200 acres of land, where he now lives, of Mr. Conkling. Very little improvement had been made upon the place, a few acres only being under cultivation and a log house had been built by Mr. Conkling. All other improvements have been made by Mr. Welch. He has now 340 acres well improv d, and is regarded as one of the most successful farmers of the town of Viroqua. His wife was Barbara Coher, born in Columbiana Co., Ohio She is a sister of the wife of Jeremiah Conaway, one of the early settlers of this town. Mr. and Mrs. Welch have had six children, five of whom are living—John, a public lecturer; George, Mrs. Rebecca Ellsworth, Christopher and James. They lost one daughter—Mrs. Catharine Rogers.

Israel Williams came to Viroqua town, Vernon Co., Wis., with his family in 1855. He was a native of Connecticut, where he was born in 1799. He removed when a young man to New York State, where he married Harriet Rockwood, born in Herkimer county. In 1837 they removed to Walworth Co., Wis, settling in Spring Prairie town, being among the earliest settlers of that county. They came from there to this county, as before stated, in 1855. They did not survive long after coming to this county, Mr. Williams dying in 1856,



J. W. Blake

and his wife the year following. They had nine children, seven of whom are living—Caroline, wife of J. I. Taylor; George H., Clarke D., Howard D., Louise, wife of E. A. Rogers; Amanda, wife of Col. E. M. Rogers, and Frank E. Two sons, Clarke D. and Howard D., are residents of the village of Viroqua, and are among her prominent business men. But one daughter resides here, Mrs. E. M. Rogers.

Clarke D. Williams was born in Walworth Co., Wis., in 1837. He came to Vernon county with his parents. In 1859 he went to California, residing there and in Nevada for ten years, returning in 1869, since which time he has been engaged in farming and in merchandising. He married Sarah V. Jewell, daughter of J. H. Jewell. They have three children—Florence V., George J. and Le Roy J.

Howard D. Williams was born in Walworth Co., Wis., in 1839. He spent several years in New York State, after which he came to this county. He is a member of the mercantile firm of Rogers, Henry & Williams. He married Mrs. Sarah C. Tourgee, widow of Charles Tourgee. They have one son—Frank, born in Franklin town. She has a daughter by her first husband—Emma Tourgee.

William Bowman was born in Perry Co., Ohio, in 1825. His father, Thomas Bowman, came to Vernon county with his family in 1856. He lived in Viroqua town but a year or two, when he removed to Missouri, and from thence to Iowa, where, in 1881, he died. He was twice married. He had six children by his first wife, and nine by his second. William is the only one of his father's family who resides in Vernon county. Like many other early settlers he came here poor, but by industry and economy he has secured a competency. The farm on which he resides, on section 21, contains 160 acres, under a good state of cultivation. He also owns 200 acres of land elsewhere in the town. He was married in Ohio to Grizelle Crawsky. They have eight children, four sons and four daughters—Mary E., wife of Sebastian Silbaugh; Thomas J., Rebecca E., wife of H. Anderson; Jerome, Erastus, Violetta, William and Sarah E. Samuel died at the age of twenty-five years.

Amos W. Green came to Vernon Co., Wis., in 1856, settling on section 27, Viroqua town, where he resided two years. He purchased his present farm in 1864, of Joseph Brothers. It contains 101 acres on section 33. He also has 160 acres of land on section 35, this town. Mr. Green was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1833, where he was married to Mary E., daughter of Joshua Ady, born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1837. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted daughter—Minnie J. She is a daughter of Thomas Ady, of Jefferson town. Mr. Green is the only member of his family in this county. He has two sisters in Monroe Co., Wis. Mrs. Green has a brother, Thomas, in Jefferson town, and a sister, Mrs. Elijah Tilton, in this town. Jesse Green, father of Amos W., was a native of Maine. He came to Vernon county in 1857, settling on a farm adjoining that now owned by his son, which is now the property of Marion Henry. He subsequently removed to Sparta, where he died in 1882. His wife died while in Viroqua town in 1876.

Mrs. Martha A. (Sabin) Hall is the relict of Ralph Hall, who with his family came to Vernon county in October, 1856, and settled on section 5, town 12 north, of range 4 west, where Mrs. Hall with her family still resides. Mr. Hall purchased the farm of Oscar Henry. He was born in England in 1830, and came to the United States in July, 1843, with his parents, who settled in Cook Co., Ill. He was married in Illinois in 1851, to his present widow, Martha A. Sabin. Mr. Hall died July 6, 1872. His father, George Hall, died in Illinois. His mother came to Viroqua in the fall of 1865, where she still resides. Mr. Hall was a highly respected and industrious citizen; was a charter member of the Vernon County Agricultural Society, and was also for some time treasurer of that organization, and was also at one time

chairman of the town board of Viroqua. Mrs. Hall was born near Cleveland, Ohio, in October, 1830. Her parents, Sylvester and Phebe Hall, settled in Cook Co., Ill., in 1841, where they lived till their decease. Mrs. Hall has three children—Phebe A., wife of Henry McDermott, was born in Cook Co., Ill.; Ananias, born in the town of Viroqua, in December, 1858, and John, born in 1868. She still resides on the homestead farm, which contains 140 acres.

Nathaniel Morrison is one of the settlers of 1856, having settled on section 8, town 12, range 4 west, in June of that year. He is not only one of the early settlers, but is also one of the most aged citizens, having been born in 1804 in Guernsey Co., Ohio, where he resided until coming to Vernon county. His father, Hans Morrison, was a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Morrison was married, in Ohio, to Charlotte Havens, born in Pennsylvania. She died Sept. 22, 1866. He has had nine children, five of whom are living—Elisha, Robert B., Alexander C., Nathaniel and John, all of whom, with the exception of Nathaniel, who lives in Kansas, live in Vernon county. Alexander served in the army during the war, enlisting Aug. 14, 1862, in company A, 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and serving until the close of the war. He married Sarah, daughter of F. K. Van Wagner, an early settler of Franklin town. Nathaniel enlisted, in 1863, in the 35th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. Mr. Morrison lost two children who had arrived at maturity—Mary Ann, who married Justice Smith; he died of disease contracted in the army; Margaret, who married Oliver C. Smith. Mr. Morrison still owns his original farm of 200 acres. He was a member of the town board for nine year. He is connected with the Christian Church.

Earl M. Rogers, of Rogers, Henry & Williams, merchants of Viroqua, has been a resident of Vernon county since May 1, 1856, when he located at Liberty Pole. Col. Rogers was born in Wayne Co., Penn., in 1839. His father, Clayton Rogers, settled with his family in Crawford Co., Wis., in 1850. In 1860 Col. Rogers crossed the plains to the mountains, but returned in 1861, to enter the Union army. He enlisted in company I, 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in June, 1861, and was made a lieutenant in December, 1861. He was for one year aid-de-camp to Brig.-Gen. Wadsworth, and on the death of that gallant officer, served in the same capacity with Brig.-Gen. Bragg. He was severely wounded, June 18, 1864, in the assault on the works of Petersburg but, returning to the army in October served till April, 1865 In 1867 he re-entered the army, receiving a commission as lieutenant in the 3d United States Infantry; served two years in frontier service, and resigned to return to Vernon county. He then embarked in mercantile pursuits at Liberty Pole, and in 1872 came to Viroqua, engaging in business under the firm name of Rogers & Henry. In the fall of 1880 the present firm was formed under the firm name of Rogers, Henry & Williams. Col. Rogers married Amanda, daughter of Israel Williams. They are the parents of three children—Edith, Henry and Edward.

C. C. Brown has been dealing in furniture in Viroqua since 1867. He carries quite an extensive stock, and, as this is the only furniture store of any importance in Vernon county, his trade is naturally very large and lucrative. Mr. Brown was born in Oakfield, Perry Co., Ohio, in 1844. His father, James Brown, came to Vernon Co., Wis., in 1856. He was a native of Maryland, and by occupation a surveyor. He found plenty of work to do in the new country, and was soon made county surveyor. With the proceeds of his labors, he bought a farm in the town of Greenwood, where he resided till his death, in 1878. His widow is a native of Bloody Run, Penn., and now resides in Viroqua. C. C. Brown resided in his native State until May, 1857, when he joined his father's family in this country. He married Dora Graff, a native of

Illinois. Her father died when she was but a small child, and she subsequently lived for a number of years at Viroqua with her grandfather, Moses Decker, one of the well-known pioneers of Vernon county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have two children—Otto and Bennie.

Levi R. Gaines resides on section 32, adjoining the town plat of Viroqua. He was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1833, and was reared amid the refining influences and ingenious productions of the Nutmeg State. In 1852, he left New England manners and conventionalities, and sought a new home at Kenosha, Wis., among the frank, practical and pleasant inhabitants of the Beaver State. His father, Theodore Gaines, came to Viroqua, with his family, in 1856, and died there May 31, 1862. Levi followed his father's family the next year (1857) and has since been a resident of Vernon county. He early learned the carpenter trade, and erected many of the earlier private residences and public buildings of Viroqua, including the Congregational and Methodist church edifices. Since 1869 Mr. Gaines has been engaged in selling sewing machines and musical instruments. He resides in a pleasant home just without the limits of the village, and also owns a farm in the town of Webster. He married Cornelia, daughter of A. C. Stevens, born in Oswego Co., N. Y. Four children were born to this union, two sons and two daughters. The former are living and named Eugene and Edward.

John W. Aikins was born in Vernon Co., Wis., in July, 1859. He resides on section 8, Viroqua town, on a farm purchased by his father, Daniel Aikins, of William Beabout. A sketch of Daniel Aikins will be found elsewhere. Mr. Aikins was married to Ella, a daughter of Capt. R. S. McMichael, of Viroqua. They have two children—Walter L. and Cora. His farm contains 120 acres.

I. W. Blake is a contractor and builder, and a member of the firm of Blake & Co., lumber dealers. Mr. Blake is also a carpenter by trade, and many of the private and public buildings of Viroqua show evidence of his handiwork. He was born in Bristol Co., Mass., in 1838, and when a young man went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he served an apprenticeship to the carpenter trade. In 1859, he came still further west, and located in the town of Wheatland, where he found work at his trade. On the breaking out of the war, he immediately returned to New England, and enlisted as a private in the 12th regiment, Maine Volunteers serving three years and three months. The regiment was first attached to the command of Maj.-Gen. Butler and afterward to that of Maj.-Gen. Banks. He participated in all the important engagements of the southwest, and at the siege of Port Hudson performed an act of valor which gained for him the admiration of both friend and foe, and deserves special mention in this work. The two armies were resting in their entrenchments after a temporary repulse of our forces from an attack on the enemy. They were but a few rods apart and within short range of musketry. Many of the sorely wounded lay writhing and groaning under the broiling sun, in the narrow space that separated the combatants. One poor comrade in particular was mortally wounded, and cried piteously for a drink of water, to allay his burning thirst. Mr. Blake listened to his pleadings but a short time, and could stand it no longer. He volunteered to make an attempt to relieve him, although the sufferer lay just before the rebel fortifications, and within easy range of their guns. Filling a canteen with fresh water, he cautiously emerged from behind the intrenchments, and secreting himself behind the dead bodies of his comrades, he crawled slowly toward the wounded man. He had passed over about half of the intervening distance, when he chanced to look toward the enemy, and found an unbroken line of rebel muskets staring him in the face. He was hailed by one of the enemy, and asked if he was wounded. Think-

ing to gain time and possibly further progress, he replied in the affirmative, but on second thought concluded to face the danger, if any, at once. He boldly arose to his feet, and relying upon his errand of mercy for respite from danger, swiftly sprang to the side of his comrade. The poor fellow swallowed the contents of the canteen, and in a faint voice thanked his benefactor for his kindness. Mr. Blake was seized with a desire to drag the wounded man back to the friendly intrenchments, but he was too badly wounded to endure the kindly meant but rough treatment. By this time, the enemy were wild with excitement, and scores of guns were nervously and threateningly handled to compel the audacious "yank" to surrender. He looked around, and seeing no alternative, cooly marched over and gave himself up as a prisoner of war. When the enemy learned that the poor soldier whom he had supplied with water at the risk of his own life was not a brother, as they had supposed, but a perfect stranger to his benefactor, they were struck with admiration for their brave captive, and treated him with due respect. He was kept in confinement until the capitulation of the enemy. The wounded soldier was subsequently identified as Sergeant Hall, a resident of Monroe Co., Wis., living near parta. After the war, Mr. Blake returned to De Soto, in the town of Wheatland, and resumed work at his trade. He has been a resident of Viroqua since 1872. He married Ella R., daughter of James Osgood. They have two children—Edith and Willie.

P. P. Hektoen was born in Hamar Stift, Norway, in 1839. He received a good education in a school corresponding to the normal schools of the United States. He came to the United States in 1859, coming directly to Viroqua town. In 1861 he bought a small farm of I. Bjorseth, on section 3, town 13 north, of range 4 west, where he still resides. In 1862 he married Olive Thorsgaard, also a native of Norway. Their oldest son, Ludvig, graduated from the Norwegian Lutheran College, at Decorah, Iowa, in June, 1883. Their other children are Martin and Maria. Mr. Hektoen has been for many years a teacher and is a man of considerable culture.

David Strawn has resided in Vernon Co., Wis., since 1859, and at present, is a retired farmer. He purchased a part of his last farm, on section 29, north of the village of Viroqua, of Alonzo Pierce. Mr. Strawn was born, in 1827, in Perry Co., Ohio, where he grew to manhood. His parents were John and Rebecca Strawn, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. They resided in Ohio until their death. Mr. Strawn married Amy Hone, born in Ohio. They have two children—Mary A., now Mrs. L. W. Ady, and Grant. Mr. Strawn's farm contained 320 acres, well improved, including good buildings, and was sold in July, 1883, to Philip Rhodes, who has been a resident of Vernon county for thirty years. He began poor, and has made all his improvements, making it one of the best farms in the county.

Elijah Tilton is the son of Simeon H. and Eliza (Brown) Tilton, and was born in what was then Hocking, now Vinton Co., Ohio, in 1833. He came with his parents to Vernon Co. Wis., in 1860. He was married, in Ohio, to Lydia A. Mercer, a native of that State. She died in 1864. They had three children, one of whom is living—Mrs. Eliza E. Smith. Subsequently, Mr. Tilton married Mrs. Sarah C. (Ady) King, by whom he has eight children, six boys and two girls—Pearly J., William L., Henry L., Jesse E., Hannah A., James E., Grace E. and Carl E. Mr. Tilton enlisted Feb. 18, 1865, in company B, 50th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, serving until the close of the war. Mr. Tilton has a farm of 200 acres, seventy of which is timber land and the remainder under cultivation.

Simeon H. Tilton was born in Pennsylvania, in 1809. When nine years of age, he went with his parents to Indiana and from thence to Ohio. In 1854 he came to Vernon Co., Wis., purchasing land in Webster town. In 1860 he settled

on section 24, Viroqua town, and in 1868 on section 33. Mr. Tilton was married to Eliza Brown, born in Pickaway Co., Ohio. They had five children, three of whom are living—Elijah, Rebecca and Mary, now Mrs. William C. Alden. These children all live in this town. Mr. Tilton died Dec. 31, 1876. Mrs. Tilton is still living.

J. Henry Tate, general merchant, has been a resident of Viroqua since 1865. He was born in the town of Landgrave, Bennington Co., Vt., in 1830. He was reared to the business of farming. In 1847 he went to Boston, Mass., where he was engaged as clerk for two years. In 1849 he went to California; was absent about two years, when he returned to New England; lived in Boston several years, and went to Rhode Island in the spring of 1860. He enlisted on the breaking out of the war, in the 2d Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry, and went into the service as commissary sergeant. He was in the service three years; was, for ten months, assistant quartermaster of the 3d Division of the 6th Army Corps. He was present at several of the earlier battles of the war, including the first battle of Bull Run, battle of Fredericksburg and Salem Heights. Col. Tate is one of the prominent business men and one of the enterprising citizens of Vernon county. He is an ardent republican, politically. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1873, and was a member of the State Senate in 1876 and 1877. He is engaged in general merchandising at Viroqua, also has another store at Cashton; the firm name there being Tate & Nelson. Mrs. Tate was formerly Helen M. Walker, also born in the town of Landgrave, Bennington Co., Vt. They have six children—Mrs. Nellie M. Towner, Mrs. Ella I. Boyer, J. Henry, Jr, Addie M., Frank E. and Frederick A.

George W. Morgan is the only resident photographer in Vernon county, and as his artistic ability is excellent, his patronage is large and remunerative. Mr. Morgan was born at Elk Grove, Grant Co., Wis., in 1845. His father, Samuel Morgan, was an early settler of that county, and a wagon maker by trade. He removed to Allamakee Co., Iowa, in 1850, where he now resides. George W. commenced learning the art of photography in 1866, with Dr. Hall, of Lansing, Iowa. Dr. Hall subsequently died, and Mr. Morgan took charge of his business and continued it with fair success for about six years. In June, 1872, he located in Viroqua. Mr. Morgan married Hattie L. Murry, a native of Ohio.

Frank M. Towner is proprietor of the only exclusive book and stationery house in Vernon county. He carries a full stock and varied assortment, including fancy goods, musical instruments, etc., and his stock is valued at from $8,000 to $10,000. Mr. Towner was born in Erie Co., Penn., in 1854. In his earlier life, he took a select course of study in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor and was subsequently a student in the Wisconsin State University, at Madison. He came to Viroqua in 1866, and embarked in his present business in the fall of 1872. Mr. Towner enjoys a first class custom, and is highly respected as a citizen. He married Nellie, daughter of Col. J. Henry Tate, one of the most prominent merchants of Viroqua and Vernon county.

N. McKie is a prominent and successful merchant of Vernon county. He is extensively engaged in the drug, hardware and lumber trade at Viroqua, and is held in high esteem by his acquaintances. He was born in sunny England, in 1828, and served an apprenticeship in the drug business, at Dumfries, Scotland. In 1848 he went to St. Louis, Mo., where he opened and operated two drug houses, in the retail trade for ten years. From 1851 to 1861 he was engaged in farming and merchandising, in St. Clair Co., Ill., and in 1869, he located at Viroqua. He immediately embarked in the general mercantile trade, and his stock is mostly composed of drugs and hardware. In December, 1880, he engaged in the lumber trade, in which he has been fairly successful. In addition to his business interests in Vernon county, he has

also had a branch establishment in Crawford Co., Wis. Mr. McKie married Sarah J., daughter of Dr. James Rusk. They have six children—Harriet, Sarah E., Jane E., James H., Hugh and Ernest.

John J. Hammond resides on section 32, Viroqua town, where he settled in the spring of 1871. He purchased of N. Wells forty-four acres of good land, especially adapted to the raising of small fruit. Mr. Hammond devotes the major portion of his time to fruit growing. His vineyard produced, in 1880, about 6,000 pounds of fine Concord grapes, and in 1882, over 4,000 pounds. Berries form a respectable part of his fruit interests, and in 1882, he raised over fifty bushels of excellent Early Richmond cherries. He is also engaged in the cultivation of sugar cane, making annually from 100 to 600 gallons of sorghum molasses. John J. Hammond is a native of Northamptonshire, England, born in 1839. When seventeen years of age, his father and mother, William and Elizabeth Hammond, emigrated to these United States, and located in New Jersey. There the father embarked in the boot and shoe trade, which he continued until his death, in the spring of 1882. In 1861 he removed his family to Illinois, where he lived during the remainder of his life. Mr. Hammond was united in marriage, in 1863, to Ann Hall, a native of Illinois, whose parents came from England. Mr. and Mrs Hammond have been blessed with nine children, three of whom are living—Alice Ann, Ida Mary and Addie Belle. Those deceased were named Alice P., Elizabeth Ann, Lydia M., Oliver S., Eleanor S. and Cora Estella.

Capt. Robert P. Clarke was not an early settler of Vernon county, but was so intimately and prominently connected with the early history of the Mississippi valley that a brief sketch of him here will probably be of interest to the readers of Vernon county history. He was born near Pittsburg, Penn., in 1802. He began keel-boating on the Ohio river when but twenty years of age, and followed boating in that kind of a craft until steamboats began plying the Mississippi. At one time, when ascending the Mississippi river, he was attacked by a large party of Indians, not far from the city of La Crosse. After a desperate fight with the savages, in which twelve of his crew were killed, he succeeded in beating off the Indians. He commanded one of the first steamboats that ever ascended the Mississippi river. It was called the Mexico, which, under his command, carried the first private freight to the head of navigation on that river, and he also commanded the third steamer that ascended the Missouri river. He owned and commanded a number of the finest river steamboats, including the Mexico, Lady Washington, George Washington, Chief-Justice Marshall, General LaFayette and others, and was identified with steamboat interests down to nearly the time of the close of his long and eventful life. During the Texas war for independence, his sympathies were aroused by the struggling Texans in their struggle for independence. He organized a company, consisting mostly of the crew of his steamboat, and left St. Louis, Mo., with his company for the headquarters of Gen. Samuel Houston, the commander of the Texan forces. He joined that general and participated in the sanguinary battle of San Jacinto, where the Mexicans lost 630 killed, and 730 taken prisoners. Among the latter were included Gen. Santa Anna. Capt. Clarke was the first to carry the news of that important victory to New Orleans. After he retired from steamboating he located at Cincinnati, afterward removing to St. Louis, which was his home for many years. He was a resident of the latter city when the war for the Union broke out, and although too old to engage in active service he took a deep interest in the success of the Union cause, and was an ardent supporter of the old flag during that fearful struggle. Notwithstanding he followed the river so many years, where moral and religious principles are not supposed to predomi-

nate, Capt. Clarke was a man of strong religious convictions, and highly respected wherever known. As was said of him at his death, he was "a public spirited and Christian gentleman, honest, plain spoken, frank and kind-hearted." He received his first religious impressions under the ministrations of Dr. Lyman Beecher, at Cincinnati, Ohio. He removed to De Soto, Wis., where his children resided, in 1874, where he died in October, 1880. The respect and esteem in which he was held was well attested by the large number of prominent citizens that attended the funeral of their deceased friend and neighbor. He was married twice, the first time at Wheeling, W. Va. He had three children by this marriage, but he lost his whole family in one night at Wheeling, by that dreadful, destroying scourge—yellow fever. In 1840 he married a Vermont lady, Mary Warren, by name, whom he met as a passenger on his boat, while ascending the river. He had five children by this marriage, four of whom are living. His oldest daughter, Mary L., is the wife of Rev. William J. Clark, of Knox Co., Ohio. A younger daughter, Elizabeth W., resides with her brother, C. Edward, at Viroqua. The mother of these children, the second wife of Capt. Clarke, died at St. Louis, Mo., of cholera, in 1849.

George H. and C. Edward Clarke, sons of Capt. Robert P. Clarke, comprise the firm of Clarke Bros., general merchants, Viroqua. They engaged in business here in 1882 and are doing an extensive business.

George H. Clarke, of the above named firm, was born in 1845 at St. Louis, Mo., where he grew to manhood. In 1863 he went to Colorado, where he was engaged in mining and merchandising. The party to which he belonged had several severe battles with the savages, this being the period of active Indian hostilities. In 1866 he returned to St. Louis, soon after becoming connected with the Kansas Pacific Railway survey. He continued thus occupied for about a year, meeting with many thrilling adventures in the wild regions of the west. He again returned to St. Louis, engaging in merchandising and in 1873 settling in De Soto, where he continued until 1882, when he came to Viroqua. Mr. Clarke has been twice married. His first wife, Martha M. Trott, was a native of Maine, but was reared in Vernon Co., Wis. His present wife was Miss L. M. Sweet, born in Richland county, and by whom he had two children. While at De Soto Mr. Clarke was engaged in various enterprises besides that of merchandising, among others that of putting up ice for the St. Louis market, being the first in the county to engage in that business. He put up on an average about 5,000 tons of ice annually.

C. Edward Clarke was born in St. Louis, in 1843. When seventeen years of age he accompanied his father to the mining regions of the west. They took a quartz mill with them, being interested in the mining business for about six years. In 1864, joining a volunteer force that was organized to put down an Indian outbreak, he participated in a hard fought battle with the Indians, including the battle of Sand creek, Nov. 29, 1864, in which 500 Indians were killed. In 1866 he went to Arkansas, where he became interested, with his father and Joseph Brooks, in cotton farming, afterwards merchandising and interested in railroad contracts and cotton buying on an extensive scale at Indian Bay and Duvall's Bluff on White river, Ark. In 1876 he came to Vernon county, locating in DeSoto. In 1882 he came to Viroqua, engaging with his brother in the general merchandise trade. Mr. Clarke is a cultured gentleman. He has traveled extensively, and possesses much general information.

George Dennis lives on section 22, where he settled in 1873. He was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, April 3, 1824, where he lived till he came to this county. He was married to Sarah J. Aikins and came to Vernon county in 1854 and has been a resident of the town of Viroqua since that time. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis have five chil-

dren—Lucinda, Nancy J., James, Herman and Henry. Mr. Dennis' farm contains 120 acres. He has a good farm, well improved. Mr. Dennis is of German descent, his paternal grandfather being a native of Germany. His parents, William and Mary Dennis, died in Ohio.

J. K. Schreiner, M. D., resides in Viroqua village. He was born in Christiana, Norway, in 1857. In 1875 he began the study of medicine and for six years was a student of the medical department of the University of Christiana, graduating from that institution in 1881. He came to the United States soon after his graduation. Dr. Schreiner is a cultured gentleman and thoroughly educated in the science of medicine. He has established an excellent practice and receives not only the patronage of his own countrymen, but is appreciated as a skillful physician by other nationalities. He spends Tuesday and Saturday afternoons of each week at the village of Westby, attending to his professional calls. Dr. Schreiner married Christina Gjerdrum. She is a well educated and refined lady.

O. Tollefson is a native of Norway and a brother of L. Tollefson, Esq., of Viroqua. He was born in 1854 and came to this country with his parents in 1860, settling in Allamakee Co., Iowa. In 1871 he went to La Crosse, Wis., and engaged as clerk in the wholesale establishment of Marsten & Son. He was also engaged for a time with Charles Solberg and afterwards was in business three years for himself. He came to Viroqua in 1882, forming a partnership with Joseph Omundson in the general mercantile business, nnder the firm name of Tollefson & Omundson. Mr. Tollefson has since purchased the interest of Mr. Omundson and is now doing business under the firm name of O. Tollefson & Co. Mr. Tollefson is one of the most enterprising young merchants in the county.

Harrison Gochenour is a native of Clinton Co., Ind., who located here in the practice of dentistry in January, 1883. He was born in 1857 and commenced the study of his profession at Frankfort, Ind., where he served an apprenticeship with Dr. J. D. Wirt. He came to Wisconsin in September, 1880, and located at Viola in Richland county, where he remained about two years and then came to Viroqua. Dr. Gochenour is well educated in his chosen profession, and during his short residence in Vernon county has secured by his merits the confidence of the public and established a good patronage. He married Emily Landes, a native of Virginia. They have one daughter—Blanche.

B. F. Ferguson, of Morley & Ferguson, who succeeded P. B. Vess in November, 1882, in the harness trade, has been a resident of Vernon county since 1852. He was born in the town of Highland, Iowa Co., Wis., in 1850. His father, William Ferguson, was an early settler in the town of Wheatland, this county, where he still resides. Mr. Ferguson learned his trade with the firm of B. F. Purdy & R. L. Ferguson, his brother, of Viroqua, and has been in business for himself over a year. He was married to Attilla, daughter of Nathan Coe, of Viroqua. Mr. Morley, of this firm, is a son of Calvin Morley, a sketch of whom will be found in this volume.

Ethan A. Stark manufactures wagons and does repair work in Viroqua. He has been a resident of Vernon county twenty-seven years and engaged in his present business about nine years. He was born in old rock-ribbed New Hampshire, in 1825. His father was Jeduthan Stark, who died when Ethan was but a lad. When thirteen years of age Mr. Stark went to Lowell, Mass., and secured employment in the large woolen mills at that point. He was only a boy, but thrifty and industrious, and finally became overseer in the factory where he first entered. He held this responsible and laborious position for sixteen years, and then resigned to come west. He located in Vernon county and purchased a farm in Viroqua town, where

he has engaged in agricultural pursuits for some years. In 1875 he succeeded Samuel Metcalf in the wagon maker's trade, and has since conducted the business with fair success Mr. Stark ma ried Amanda F. Weeden, born in Vermont, in 1829. Her father died in Vermont, but her mother came to Viroqua and here departed this life Aug. 26, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Stark have one daughter—Helen M., born Sept. 18, 1873.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

TOWN OF WEBSTER.

This portion of Vernon county is bounded on the north by the town of Christiana, on the east by the town of Stark, on the south by the town of Liberty, and on the west by the town of Viroqua. The town is square in size, comprising 36 sections. There is only one stream of any importance within its limits, with the exception of the main branch of the Kickapoo river, which flows through the eastern half of section 36. The west branch of the Kickapoo river enters the town on section 6, and takes a southerly course through sections 5, 7, 18, 19, 30, 29 and 32, leaving the town on the southwestern part of section 33. Besides the streams mentioned, there are various tributaries which form a net work of water courses throughout the town, making the land valuable for both stock and agricultural purposes.

The surface of the territory is very rolling, and along the banks of both branches of the Kickapoo river, the bluffs greatly resemble those on the Mississippi.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In 1852 two brothers, R P. and A. W. Gillett, came into the present boundary of this town and entered land on section 18. The former now resides in Monroe Co., Wis., and the latter in Anoca, Minn.

William Jobe came the same year, but now resides in Kansas. In 1853 John Snider came into the town, entered land on section 19. After Snider came the following settlers, all of whom are now deceased: John Graham located forty acres on section 19; Lemuel Joseph settled on section 28; John Richardson, on section 21; Sol Richardson, on section 17, and John Pottson section 21. Isaac Glenn and his son Isaiah came from Ohio to Webster town in 1853. The former died here in 1862. Mordecai Adams is a native of Morgan Co., Ohio, and came to Vernon county in 1853, and to this town in 1855.

Joshua Selby was a bachelor from the good State of Maryland in 1854. In 1859 he married Rebecca Stanaford. By being industrious and economical, Mr. Selby has accumulated a handsome competence.

James Allen is a native of Athens Co., Ohio, where he was born in 1807. He came to this town in 1854, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 4. He was the first chairman of the board of supervisors, and held that honorable position for six years. He was married in Ohio, in 1831, to Amanda Gardner, who bore him nine children—Rodney D., Augusta E., Charles A., Arthur P., Calista C., Oscar P (who died at Pittsburg Landing in 1862), Harvey M., Edwin P. and Albert G. Four of these sons were in the Union army—Rodney, Perry, Oscar and Harvey. Mrs. Allen departed this life May 4, 1882, and Mr. Allen was again married July 25, 1883, to Mrs. Albina Hugbert, who is now seventy years of age.

James Oliver came in 1854 and settled forty acres of land on section 5, where he still resides.

William Staniford located on section 28, in 1854, and Wesley Potts settled on section 17, where he now lives.

Jesse Appleton settled here in 1855, and now owns about 1,300 acres of land. He has been

twice married. His present wife was Mary McMichael.

John Lyons is a native of Columbiana Co., Ohio, and in 1851 came to Vernon Co., Wis. He located 160 acres of land in this town, which he still owns. He was married in 1852 to Catharine Cowden.

Isaiah Glenn, one of the honored pioneer settlers of this town, was born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, in 1832, and in 1854, accompanied his parents to Vernon Co., Wis. He pre-empted eighty acres of land, which he sold in 1865. When he located in Webster town, there were only three families living within its borders, and Mr. Glenn taught the first school. In 1856 he married Elizabeth Teal, and two children were given them—Laura J., wife of George Fulton, and Clarence. Mr. Glenn suffered the loss of his wife in 1859, and was again united in marriage, in 1865, to Mary Criss, who is the mother of seven children. Minnie, Theophilus, Preston, Rosetta, George, Anna M. and Minnie B. Mr. Glenn's father, Isaac, was born in Ohio in 1806, and was fifty-six years of age at the time of his death.

ORGANIC.

On the 7th day of April, in the year 1856, a band of hardy pioneers and early settlers gathered together at the house of Sol Richardson to perfect the organization of a new town. It was called Webster, after the great American Statesman. The general affairs of the town have surely been conducted in a manner creditable to the name of that illustrious man, as is fully substantiated by the general prosperity of the settlers and thrifty appearance of the land at the present time.

After officers of election were appointed and approved, the following were selected by the thirty-five voting, to first conduct the affairs of the new town: Chairman of the board of supervisors, James Allen; clerk, John Richardson; side board, James Oliver and William Huntington; assessor and treasurer, Isaac Glenn. The present officers of the town are: Chairman, William Hayes; clerk, Isaiah Glenn; treasurer, John Snider; side board, Abner Silbaugh and Lewis Shown; assessor, C. Didrickson.

FIRST THINGS.

The first white child born in the town was to R. P. Gillett and wife, in 1855.

The first couple married in the town of Webster was R. P. Gillett to Rebecca Smith, in 1854.

The first religious services were held at the village of Avalanche, by Rev. Munion, in 1854.

The first white person who died in the town was Edward Post, in 1855.

The first school in the town was taught by Isaiah Glenn, in a log building on section 8, in 1855. This building had been erected for a dwelling house.

The first school house was built of logs, and erected on section 18, in 1857.

The first election was held at the house of John Richardson, on section 21, in 1856.

The first postoffice established in the town was at Avalanche, in 1868, and Robert Welch was the first postmaster.

EDUCATIONAL.

The number of school buildings in the town is six. They are mostly of wood, and their aggregate value is about $1,020. The school population of the town number 442.

RELIGIOUS.

Mount Zion Church, located on section 26, was organized in 1869 by Rev. D. K. Young, with a membership of forty persons. Soon after the organization the congregation went to work and secured the funds necessary to the erection of a neat frame structure, 20x30 feet in size, and at a cost of about $300. In 1879 a rather serious misunderstanding took place among the different members on some subject pertaining to Church matters, and a large portion of the congregation withdrew from the Church. In addition to this regretful affair, a great many of the members have removed to other climes, and the present membership numbers only ten.

The Advent Church was organized in 1867, on section 15, by Rev. Huff. The congregation first met for worship at the school house in the village of Avalanche, and continued their services there until 1875, when they erected a substantial frame structure, 24x40 feet in size, at a cost of $1,000. The organization was disbanded in 1881 for want of funds to meet expenses.

POSTOFFICES.

The first postoffice in the town of Webster was established at the village of Avalanche, in 1868, and Robert Welch was duly commissioned by "Uncle Sam" as its first postmaster. He was succeeded by Daniel Busbee, E. Enochson, August Sweger and the present postmistress, Mary Sweger.

The office above mentioned is in the extreme western portion of the town, and rather inconvenient to settlers in the eastern, northeastern and southeastern parts. As the town settled it was thought necessary to have another office in the eastern part, and Otter Vale postoffice was established on section 14, in 1878, with William S. Marshall as postmaster. He was succeeded by E. Marshall, the present incumbent.

MILLS.

There are located in different parts of the town, mostly along the banks of the west branch of the Kickapoo river, three saw mills, one grist mill and one grist and saw mill combined, and one woolen mill.

VILLAGE OF AVALANCHE.

This place is situated in the extreme western part of the town. It was laid out and platted in fourteen blocks or squares on the center of section 18, by Cyrus F. Gillett, in 1854. The village takes its singular name from the formation of the earth immediately east of the place, which resembles a gigantic landslide or avalanche suddenly stopped in its destructive course.

The first store in the village was opened by its founder, C. F. Gillett, the same year it was laid out. In 1858 a wagon maker, William Cummings, first commenced working at his trade in the embryo village.

The first saw mill in the village was operated by R. P. and A. W. Gillett, in a building on the west branch of the Kickapoo river, which had been built in 1852.

The school house was erected in 1855, and Miss Stricker was the name of the first teacher.

In 1854, the Rev. Mr. Munion came into the neighborhood, and preached the first sermon at the residence of Cyrus F. Gillett.

The first flouring mill in Avalanche was erected in 1860, by Busbee & Piper, with three run of buhrs, on the mill race to the west of the village.

The following is a business directory of the village at the present time:

The grist or flouring mill is owned by Enoch Enochson. It contains three run of stones, and is run by water power, with a capacity of thirty barrels per day. The mill and machinery is valued at about $10,000.

Enoch Enochson was born in Norway, in 1826, and came to the United States in 1851. He subsequently came to Wisconsin, and located on Coon Prairie, where he remained until 1862, the date of his removal to the village of Avalanche. Mr. Enochson is the owner of 200 acres of land on section 18, of this town, and 156 acres on Coon Prairie, in the town of Viroqua. He has been a steady, industrious farmer, and has served his fellow-citizens as chairman of the town board, its treasurer for four years, and as a member of the side board for six years. He was united in marriage, in 1854, to Sarah Olson, who departed this life in 1872. Seven children were born to this union—Helen, wife of Lars L. Ramstead, Elizabeth, wife of William Garrett, Olena, Edward, Martin, John and Anna.

Thomas P. DeWitt, a well known farmer of Webster town, came to Vernon county in 1857. He first located in Viroqua, and remained there till 1860. He then purchased 133 acres of land in this town, where he has since resided and de-

voted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits. He was born of good parents in Athens Co., Ohio, in 1825. In 1853 he removed to Boone Co., Ind., and in 1854, located in Union Co., Ohio. He came west in 1857. Mr. DeWitt married Catharine Lattimer, and nine children have blessed their union—John, who married Frankie Shell, Hannah, wife of Levi Calkins, James, Delia, wife of Allan Starke, Colonel, Arvilla, Grant, Eva and Levi. In 1864 Mr. DeWitt enlisted in the 42d regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until he was honorably discharged in 1865.

Hans Larson, who located here in 1860, was born in Norway in 1834. He emigrated to these United States in 1857, and in 1860 entered forty acres of land on section 18, of Webster town, which he has since increased to 120 acres, valued at $800. In 1864 he enlisted in the 17th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and manfully upheld the cause of the Union until his discharge in 1865. He was a member of the side board for many years,and has held other offices in the town. Mr. Larson was married in 1857 to Anna Hanson. They have six children—Lewis, Hans, Gustave, Ida, Anna and John. Mrs. Larson departed this life July 14, 1878.

William P. Brown, who came to Vernon county from Ohio, in 1865, was born at Beverly, Ohio, in 1842. He received a liberal education, and lived in his native place until 1861, when he enlisted in the 18th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving four years and seven months. He participated in eighteen different engagements, and shared in all the victories and defeats that fell to the lot of the armies of the Ohio and the Cumberland. From the first inception to the close of the war he was in active service, with the exception of two months spent in the hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn., recovering from wounds received in the battle of Chickamauga. At the close of the Rebellion he removed to Wisconsin, and located at Star, in this county. In 1875 he sold out his property at that place, and came into this town, buying an interest in a saw mill on the west branch of the Kickapoo river, one half mile south of Avalanche. In connection with the saw mill Mr. Brown also operates a woolen mill, for custom work. He was married, in 1865, to Laurana Bacon. Clarence P. and Charles S. are the fruits of this union. Mr. Brown's father now resides on section 19 of this town. Although somewhat advanced in years, he still continues to manage the affairs of a large farm, and is, in connection with his son, in the mill business.

John Spencer, who has lately become a resident here, was born in Iowa Co., Wis., in 1847. He attended the common schools, and resided in his native place until 1874, when he removed to Richland Co., Wis., and there worked at his trade of a mason, and carried on a farm until 1882. He then removed to Webster town, and bought ninety-four acres of land on sections 32 and 33, where he has since resided. He was united in marriage, in 1877, to Lucy F. Colbine, of Richland Co., Wis. They have three children—Eleanor, Miriam and Eva E. In 1865 Mr. Spencer enlisted in the 28th regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in the right thigh at the battle of Plum Creek. He was discharged the same year.

CHAPTER XLIX.

THE TOWN OF WHEATLAND.

Wheatland is in the extreme southern part of Vernon county, with the Mississippi river for its boundary on the west, the town of Genoa on the north, the town of Sterling on the east and Crawford county on the south. It comprises parts of towns 11 and 12, ranges 6 and 7 west, and contains about twenty-six sections. The only water course within this town is a small stream called Battle creek, which takes its rise on section 3, town 11, range 7, and flows into the Mississippi river from section 9, of the same town and range.

Not unlike the other towns of Vernon county, which border on the Mississippi river, there is a large amount of rough untillable land, a part of which is covered with heavy timber. The valleys are very productive and even the hillsides are not worthless, as they are utilized as pasture lands for sheep, which are quite extensively grown.

SETTLEMENT.

Ira Stevens was the first man to settle in this town. He located at Victory, in January, 1849. Other pioneers are mentioned at length in the history of the villages of Victory and De Soto. At these two points was effected the first settlement in this town. The eastern portion of the town being settled at a much later date.

Aaron Cooley settled on section 18, in the autumn of 1854. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he enlisted in the Union army, though at the time he was upwards of sixty years of age. He was taken sick while in the service, received a furlough and succeeded in getting as near home as the residence of Davis Sumner, in this town, but being unable to proceed further, he there died. He was a drummer while in the service. His family continued to reside in the town for several years after his death, but finally all moved away except one son, Charles, who resides on section 17. Another son, Franklin, was a Congregational minister in Dakota, in 1883. Egbert Benedict settled at about the same time as did Cooley, on section 18, on land afterward owned by Robert Angel.

The following settlers were among the number who came in 1855: L. P. Miller, who located on section 17; Samuel Huntington, on section 12; Willard Fosdick, also a settler of section 12; a man named King made a claim on section 1, but the land was finally entered by another party. Jonathan Law also settled that year on section 31. This farm is now known as the Law place. Arvin and A. D. Chase settled on section 32, and J. T. Shaw on section 29.

Samuel Huntington came here with his family, then consisting of his wife and two children, one son and one daughter. In 1883 the family were all dead except the wife and mother, who moved to New York State.

Still others who came in 1855, were Moses Sanderson and his sons, Clark W. and Bridane. The sons settled on sections 5 and 8; but the father located in the town of Sterling. J. J. Tenney settled on section 8, where he still resided in 1884. Richard Morgan and family located on section 5, on lands entered by Elijah, Reuben and Stephen Powell, the previous

year. P. Jay Miller settled in this town in November, 1855. He was a native of New York. He married Julia, a daughter of James Lawerence, of Crawford county, this State. In 1884 he lived on section 5, on land purchased of Samuel Morgan.

Peleg Coffin settled in the town of Freeman, Crawford Co., Wis., July 5, 1855. He was born at Yarmouth, Cape Cod, Mass., Nov. 20, 1795. He followed the life of a sailor for a number of years and afterwards learned the machinist's trade, which he pursued for some years. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. His wife, Zylphine Crowell, was a native of Yarmouth, born Sept. 26, 1808. They had nine children, three of whom died in infancy. The six who lived to maturity are—George, a resident of Dakota; Seth, deceased; Henry, also in Dakota; William, a resident of Rockford, Ill., Mary, wife of Thomas Lawrence, born in Massachusetts, in 1841; Esther, wife of James H. Rogers, of Viroqua. Mr. Coffin died July 20, 1882. His wife died in 1875.

Thomas Lawrence, although a resident of Freeman, Crawford Co., Wis., was with his father, an early resident of Vernon county, owning a farm near Liberty Pole, which was first occupied by John McCulloch, the first settler of Vernon county. His father, James Lawrence, located at Liberty Pole July 5, 1851, and settled on the farm now owned by William Clawater. James Lawrence was born in Monmouthshire, England, in 1809. He emigrated to the United States in 1851, making his first settlement at Liberty Pole, where he remained until the spring of 1854, then removed with his family to the town of Freeman, Crawford county, being the first settler in the neighborhood, and where he resided until his death Aug. 23, 1883. In 1832 he was married to Mary Williams, who still survives him. Father Lawrence, as he was called, was a member of the Bible Christian Church in England. When he came to the United States he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church and remained a firm believer until his death, being a member of these Churches for over fifty-five years. He was an earnest and sincere Christian and his memory will long be cherished and his name remain a prominent one in the pioneer history of Vernon and Crawford counties. His surviving children are—Thomas, Mary, wife of Nathan Coe, of Viroqua; Julia, wife of L. J. Miller, of the town of Wheatland; James W., Matthew E. and Jane E. They lost one child, a daughter, Emma. Thomas, the eldest child, was born in England, in 1834. He resides in Freeman, Wis., at present, but was for several years a resident of De Soto. He kept the Bay State House in 1862–3 and a meat market from 1874 until 1877. His wife was Mary Coffin, a daughter of Peleg Coffin. She was a native of Massachussetts. They have three children—Ellen J., William and Alice Z. They lost their eldest daughter.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first birth in the town of Wheatland was that of Thomas D. Carlyle, son of Adam and C. L. Carlyle, who was born Feb. 14, 1856.

The first death was Mrs. Frank Huntington, in the spring of 1855.

The first marriage was that of J. B. Wixcox to Maria Page some time during 1855.

The first house destroyed by fire in the town was one owned by V. H. Story in the village of De Soto in 1857.

ORGANIC.

The town of Wheatland was organized in 1857 and the first election held that year, at which the following officers were elected to fill the town offices:

Adam Carlyle, chairman; Joel Shaw and Hiram Furgeson, supervisors; George G. Van Wagner, clerk; William Furgeson, assessor; C. B. Stevens, treasurer; J. C. Kurtz, town school superintendent.

The officers for 1883 were: H. H. Morgan, chairman; A. Cole and Alexander Latshaw, supervisors; James H. Rogers, clerk; Richard

M. McAuley, treasurer; Woodbridge Dyre, assessor.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

A society of the Congregational Church was formed in 1863, at the school house on section 33, in the town of Sterling; though most of its members were residents of the town of Wheatland. The first members were: Richard Morgan and wife, E. Cilley and wife, C. W. Sanderson and wife, Samuel Morgan and wife, Dr. D. A. Bean and wife, J. I. Tenney and wife, and perhaps a few others. This society and the one at Retreat were consolidated in 1879. The ministers have been the same as those who served at De Soto.

SCHOOLS.

The town of Wheatland has always been fully up with the other towns of Vernon county in its school and other educational advantages. The first school was taught in the fall of 1853, by Nancy Berry, daughter of John C. Berry, at a point near where the villsge of Victory now stands. In 1884 there were six schools in the town, held in districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 9, joint district No. 3, and at the village of De Soto.

In district No. 1 the school building is a small frame house situated in a pleasant spot on the main road from De Soto to the Bad Ax valley. The population is mostly of an American element, who attend the school with a good degree of regularity. The foreigners of this district are principally Germans.

District No. 2 is located in the little village of Victory, on the banks of the Mississippi river. This district has a good school building, and always has a fair attendance.

District No. 3, proper, is located on the ridge above De Soto and Victory. The building here is a fair frame structure, situated in a beautiful place overlooking the great Mississippi valley country, with its many picturesque scenes. The school population is chiefly American.

Joint district No. 3 is provided with a good building very well furnished. The American element predominates; there are, however, many Norwegians within this district.

District No. 9 is along the ridge, in the vicinity of the John Davis farm and three miles from De Soto. This district was lately provided with a fine new frame school building, which took the place of the old one, which was burned in 1880. This school has ever had a good average attendance, made up principally of American children.

De Soto union schools, located within the village of De Soto, are kept in a fine two story building, which accommodated three departments until within a few years, but of late, only two. Very earnest and efficient work has been performed in these schools, which have always been of much credit to De Soto.

RED MOUND POSTOFFICE.

In addition to the postoffices of De Soto and Victory which have been already mentioned in the village history, the town of Wheatland has another known as "Red Mound," which is located on section 5, town 11, range 6 west. It was established March 15, 1872. L. J. Miller was appointed postmaster, and was still holding the position in 1884.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884, the town of Wheatland contained three cemeteries. One situated near the village of Victory; one on section 12, town 12, range 7, and one on section 15, town 11, range 7.

DE SOTO VILLAGE.

De Soto was first known as "Winneshiek's Landing," from the chief by that name, who came here to trade his furs for supplies with the French traders at this point. Two French families by the name of Godfrey located here not long after the close of the Black Hawk War. They were induced to come through efforts put forth by Col. Dousman, of Prairie du Chien. This was occupied as a trading post for about twenty years. Moses M. Strong made the original entry of the plat of the village. Dr. Euclid

B. Houghton purchased it of Mr. Strong. Dr. Simeon D. Powers, Dr. Houghton and Dr. James Osgood laid out the village in 1854. These gentlemen came hither from Port Washington. Dr. Osgood built the first house on the village plat, which was occupied in 1884 by Charles Lyttle as a residence. Dr. Houghton opened the first store.

The first building of any importance was erected by Carlyle, Dowse & Co. The lumber with which this house was built came from Black River Falls, the nearest available point for obtaining lumber at that time.

The first blacksmith in the village was William N. West, who afterward moved to Minnesoto.

The first cooper shop was operated by Ambrose DeLap.

The first shoemaker was Henry Fosdick. In the fall of 1855 Mr. Adam Carlyle purchased for Mr. Fosdick a side of sole leather and other stock for his shop of Ulysses S. Grant, of Galena, Ill.

The first saw mill was built in the fall of 1855, by A. B. Clapp and George Meade. This mill and all others at this point were operated by steam power. It was destroyed by fire in 1864. N. S. Cate & Co. built a saw mill in 1857. This firm was composed of Messrs. N. S. Cate, H M. Chamberlain and Emery Houghton, who came from the State of Maine. They operated the mill till 1862, and did an extensive business, employing sometimes as high as fifty men. The mill cut upon an average 50,000 feet of lumber per day, besides shingles, lath, etc. This company also built a grist mill adjoining the saw mill, which was also propelled by steam power. In 1862 these mills went into the hands of H. M. Chamberlain & Co., who in 1864 sold to John C. Davis. The stock was closed out and the mill lay idle for several years. This failure was caused in part by the failure of the New England Glass Co., of which Mr. Houghton was the financial manager. On the completion of this mill, when they had a three month's supply of logs on hand, the stock of this concern amounted to $100,000.

A shingle mill was built by C. M. and A. R. Worth, about 1865. They also sawed some lumber. After running this about four years it was converted into a grist mill and the Worth brothers then occupied the Cate & Co's. mill for about five years, during which time they manufactured large amounts of lath, shingles and lumber. In 1884 this mill was used for cutting staves and heading.

An establishment for the manufacture and cutting of files was started by A. Miller, who run it for a year or so and enlisted in the army to "suppress the rebellion," which had then just commenced. He was killed at the battle of Gettysburg.

In 1857 Capt. William Plummer & Co. engaged in the manufacture of lime and connected with their business the manufacture of hard wood barrels. They did an extensive business, although it was continued only about a year.

The De Soto brewery is owned by Charles E. Reiter, who purchased it of George Eckhardt in 1882. Mr. Reiter makes about 400 barrels of beer per annum. The building was erected by Cate & Co., in 1858, and used by them as a store. George Eckhardt first utilized it for brewing purposes.

The first school in the village was taught by Mrs. Catharine P. Stevens, in the winter of 1855–6. This was a private school. The first school house proper was built in the summer of 1856, in which James McDill taught the first school the winter following. This house was in use as a residence in 1884, a new school house having been built in 1872. This building was a frame structure, two stories high. The cost of this house was $3,500, and, excepting the one at Viroqua, was the best in the county.

The first physician in De Soto was Dr. G. S. Sperry, who came from St. Paul in the summer of 1856. He was an excellent physician. He died in 1873.

Other physicians were: Dr. G. W. Brooks and Dr. Worth. The physician in 1884 was Dr. Orlando Ewers. Others who have borne the title of doctor, though not educated physicians, were Dr. E. B. Houghton, the original proprietor of the village. He moved from the place to La Crosse and later to St. Louis, where he died in 1862. Dr. James Osgood came in 1854 and assisted in laying out the village and finally became owner of one-fourth of the town plat. He died in 1863. Dr. Simeon Powers, a dentist, was also owner of another fourth interest in the town site of De Soto. He afterward removed to Sparta, where he was at the time of his death. Capt. C. B. Worth came in 1854 and remained till his death in 1875. He was also owner of a fourth interest in the village plat. His son Addison made the first lumber wagon in De Soto.

The first lawyer who practiced at this point was Addison A. Hosmer, a graduate of the Harvard law school at Cambridge, Mass. He came in 1857 and returned to that State in 1860. From there he went into the army and before the war closed became quite distinguished. After the close of the war he was made judge advocate and it was he who passed sentence on the notorious Wirz, of Andersonville infamy,

Tolbert C. Ankney came here as an attorney in 1865, though he had been here previous to the war. He was associated with George McDill, who was also an attorney here at that time.

H. W. McAulley began the practice of law in 1866, continuing for a number of years.

The present attorney is George L. Miller.

The first hotel in this village was known as the Winneshiek House. It was a log house and among the first built in the place. The Bay State House was erected in 1856, by Seth Crowell and Jonathan F. Porter, who ran it for several years. Other parties who have from time to time operated this house, are C. H. Allen. Thomas Lawrence, who had charge of the house in 1862–3, and was succeeded by Benjamin Trott, who improved the premises and who operated it till his death, in December, 1879. In 1884 it was owned and conducted by his widow, Mrs. Hannah Trott. This hotel was, without doubt, the finest in Vernon county in 1884. It was a three story frame building, 32x45 feet, and finished in good style. The first cost was $7,000.

Mrs. Hannah Trott, proprietress of the Bay State House, De Soto, is the widow of Benjamin Trott, who came to De Soto in 1859. He was born in Shuncook in the British Province, in 1816. He was brought up in the State of Maine. He came here in the milling interests of Cate & Co., and had charge of the manufacturing of shingles in the mill of this company. In February, 1864, he rented the Bay State House, which he conducted for several years, then purchased it, and continued in charge of the same, till his death, which occurred Dec. 15, 1879. He was a man highly respected in the community in which he lived, as an upright, honorable citizen. His wife still owns and conducts the hotel. Her maiden name was Hannah Bean. She was born in Perry, Washington Co., Maine. She has two children—Barbara, wife of Mr. Steele, of Viroqua, and Rebecca, wife of Robert Rice.

The next hotel was the De Soto House, built soon after the Bay State House was erected. It was built by Kurtz & Hale for a hotel and boarding house, but finally was used for a carriage and wagon shop.

The second hotel, called the De Soto, was formerly a store building and was changed to a hotel, by Edward Sweeney. This house, in 1884, was being operated by Mrs. Ann M. Miller.

The postoffice at De Soto, was established in 1855. Dr. S. D. Powers was the first postmaster, and Adam Carlyle acted as his deputy. The next to hold the office was Dr. Osgood, with J. C. Kurtz as his deputy. Dr. Osgood was succeeded by C. B. Whiting, whose deputy was Fred Carr. In 1884 the postmaster was J. H. Rogers, who was appointed in 1865. This be-

came a money order office in July, 1878. The first order was issued to J. H. Hinds, for $38.32. The first order paid, was to Mrs. John Babcock and was dated July 22, 1878.

The business interests of De Soto, in 1884, were in the hands of the following:

C. Lyttle & Co., general merchants, also dealers in lumber and grain.

Fred Eckhart & Co., grain dealers.

J. A. Cooper, manufacturer of wagons and carriages, also dealer in farm machinery.

Charles L. Woodbury, general merchandise and farming implements.

Adam Carlyle, agent for the Diamond Jo steamboat line.

C. Lyttle, agent for the North Western line of steamers.

J. H. Rodgers, general merchandising and drugs.

Charles H. Upham, general store, also hardware and farm machinery.

D. A. Steele, furniture.

Charles McDowell, blacksmith shop.

J. F. Allen, wagon maker.

Mrs. A. H. Wareham, millinery and furnishing goods.

Miss M. L. Porter, dress-maker.

C. L. Ingersoll, flour and feed.

Louis Stinseng, boots and shoes.

Patrick De Lacy, boots and shoes.

John Devlin, meat market.

Fred Schmidt, drugs.

Mrs. J. A. Cooper, millinery and dress-maker.

Mrs. H. Carpenter, dress-maker.

N. E. French, grocery and restaurant.

Orville D. Pulver, restaurant.

Charles E. Reiter, brewer, and owner of the Lansing and De Soto ferry.

Mrs. Hannah Trott, owner and proprietor of the Bay State Hotel.

Mrs. A. N. Miller, owner and proprietor of the De Soto House.

William Waldron, fish dealer.

W. F. McMastress, fish dealer.

H. E. McMasters, cooper.

C. L. Mueller, stave and heading factory.

O. Ewers, physician.

G. L. Miller, attorney.

James H. Rogers, postmaster.

D. Abbott Steele came to De Soto Oct. 5, 1855, in company with his brother, Alvah Steele, who remained about three years and returned to New Hampshire. D. Abbott Steele was born in Georgia, where his parents, who were natives of New Hampshire, were then living. He has been variously engaged since coming to De Soto; in 1884, he was engaged in the furniture business.

John W. White came in the spring of 1855, and located just northeast of the village, where he still lived in 1884.

Edmund Houghton came to De Soto April 1, 1855. He is now the earliest present resident on the village town plat. He was born in Harvard, Mass., in 1808. Served an apprenticeship in New Hampshire, to the trade of a machinist; and came here from that State. A friend of Mr. Houghton's, R. P. Waite, came with him, but returned to New Hampshire. Mr. Houghton made a location on section 10,. town 11, ange 7 west, where he made a claim which her still owns, but he has always made his home in the village. His wife was Nancy Bryant, a native of New Hampshire. They have one daughter—Ellen, the wife of Woodbridge Dyre.

Other early settlers of the town were: Samuel Pike, who came from Massachusetts in 1855, and remained until 1873, when he removed to Iowa. He was a painter by trade; C. B. Stevens, who was a tinner, came into the village of De Soto in the spring of 1855, and continued to live there until 1882, when he moved to Dakota. Also, Dennis Powers, Sidney R. Gage, Hugh McDill, R. F. Lemen, A. McDowell and Anthony Valle, a Frenchman, who enlisted into the United States army and died at Andersonville prison.

CHURCHES.

The Central Methodist church in the town of Wheatland, is on section 31. The class was

organized in 1857. The first preacher was Rev. Myron Clendenning. The original members were: Jacob Chase and wife, A. D. Chase and wife, Moses Sanderson and wife (Mr. Sanderson was a local preacher); Peter Waldron, Bridane Sanderson and wife. These are all that are remembered.

De Soto, Retreat and Central societies have comprised one circuit, hence this is called the Central Church. The Rev. Newton Lane assisted Rev. Clendenning, who was the first on the circuit. The circuit at that time, comprised a large area of territory. Rev. Clendenning is now a member of the Rock River Conference. The Rev. Lane died in the service during the Rebellion. Rev. Clendenning was succeeded by Rev. Smith.. He by the Rev. Bassenger; then came the Rev. J. E. Irish; other pastors were W. P. Hill, Christopher Bushby, Thomas Manuel, H. J. Walker, D. L. Hubbard, D. Clingman, H. D. Jenks and the Rev. W. W. Hurd. The present pastor is the Rev. I. F. Nuzum. The Central church building was erected in 1877. It is a frame structure, one and a half stories, and cost about $900. A Sunday school has been supported since the class was organized; it now numbers seventy-five members.

Rev. George W. Nuzum, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Viroqua, was born in Perry Co., Ohio, Aug. 26, 1832. He there grew to manhood. He was a student for some time at the college at Athens, Ohio. When twenty-three years of age, he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Ohio Conference. He was married in Ohio to Miss M. F. Groves, and in 1856 came to Vernon Co., Wis., joining the Bad Ax circuit and preaching at various points according to the customs of his Church. Mr. Nuzum first settled on forty acres of land in Viroqua town, where he lived for a number of years. Subsequently he resided for about eight years in Liberty town. He then settled on his present farm in Viroqua. He has been engaged in the active ministry ever since his removal to Vernon county, twenty years, except at intervals, when ill health compelled him to retire for a season of rest. He has ten children, six sons and four daughters.

Isaac F. Nuzum, son of George W. Nuzum, also a Methodist minister, was born in June, 1855, in Perry Co., Ohio. He began the ministry in 1877, at which time he joined the West Wisconsin Conference. He is at present pastor of the Church at De Soto. He married Lydia A., daughter of David McCulloch, an early settler of Crawford Co., Wis.

The first meeting of the Congregational society in this locality was held Feb. 15, 1856. The society was organized at this meeting. The minister present was the Rev. L. L. Radcliffe, of La Crosse district convention. Among the number who joined the society at this time were: Charles Houghton and wife, Fannie Houghton, Mrs. Mary E. Roach, Mrs. Abbie W. Tobey (the last two were daughters of Mr. Houghton), Daniel D. Fuller and wife, Mercy P. Fuller, Alexander Young and wife, Wilton E. Roach and J. F. Tobey. The first pastor was Rev. L. L. Radcliffe; the first officers were Charles Houghton, deacon; and Daniel Fuller, clerk. Rev. L. L. Radcliffe was succeeded by Rev. Alexander Parker, in 1863, and he by Rev. Peter Valentine, in 1865. The next pastor in charge was Rev. L. Bridgeman, who came in 1868 and remained till his successor, Rev. James Mitchell came in 1871; the Rev. S. H. Thompson came in 1874 and was succeeded by Rev. William Houghton, in 1879; Rev. Charles Vaile was pastor in 1881; then came Rev. William Houghton to his second pastorate.

A church building was erected in 1859; it was built in the Gothic style of architecture, and cost the society about $1,800. The society has been supported by a good Sunday school since the time of its organization in 1859. D.

Abbott Steele, who was elected superintendent of this school in 1862, was still its superintendent in 1884, having served continuously for twenty-one years. This school averages about thirty-five pupils.

The first services of the M. E. Church were held in a building built of railroad ties for a wagon and blacksmith shop, in the year 1855.

The first class was formed by Rev. T. C. Clendenning in the year 1858. The members, as near as can be ascertained, were as follows: James Lawrence and Mary, his wife; William Hemmingway and wife, and his son, George, and daughter, Mary Hemmingway, and William Wyburn.

The first minister of the M. E. Church who preached in De Soto was Rev. John Whitworth, now of Viroqua.

The M. E. church was built in the year 1859, and removed out in the country in the year 1875, being now known as the Central Church.

The pastors of the M. E. Church in De Soto circuit have been as follows: Revs. John Whitworth, T. C. Clendenning, Mr. Lane, Mr. Smith, S. D. Bassenger, J. E. Irish, W. P. Hill, C. Bushby, Thomas. Manual, H. J. Walker, D. L. Hubbard, D. Clingman, H. D. Jencks, W. W. Hurd and the present pastor, Rev. I. F. Nuzum.

The De Soto Baptist Church was organized at the house of Dr. James Osgood, Jan. 11, 1855, with a constituency of sixteen members, who adopted as theirs the New Hampshire articles of faith and covenant. The Church was duly recognized by council on the 9th of the following February. A. B. Hubbard, a member of the Church, served as its pastor with acceptance for six months, after which Rev. D. Mulhern became pastor. For a while the Church gained in membership, both by baptism and letter. In 1857 serious trouble arose which resulted in the exclusion of quite a number of members. The aggrieved, with others, holding letters from other Baptist Churches, called for a council, which was attended by delegates from the La Crosse and Winona, Minn., Churches. Although the Church was represented in the council, it refused to comply with the recommendation to reconsider its action. The council further recommended that, should the Church refuse to reconsider its action, a new Church should be formed. This was done soon after by the union of about twenty members. The new Church was admitted to the La Crosse Valley Baptist Association at its next annual meeting. Rev. D. Mulhern served as its pastor, and a few were added by baptism. Through removals its membership was reduced and its meetings discontinued, and were never revived. The first Church held occasional meetings at De Soto. In March, 1861, its place of meeting was changed to Brush Creek. Here it was prospered, at one time numbering thirty-one members. Removals and change of residence led the Church in 1868 to again make De Soto its place of meeting. Concessions were made which resulted in those living in the neighborhood, members of the second Church, uniting with the old Church. The following year Rev. S. E. Sweet became pastor and was ordained. He preached here and at other points, one of which was Harmony, where a Baptist Church was organized the following January. Rev. Sweet served the two Churches one year, when, in order to pursue further study, he went to Beaver Dam, Wis. In 1872 Rev. William Haughton became pastor, serving the Harmony Church also. He remained about eighteen months. From this time regular monthly meetings were held, with occasional preaching, till February, 1875, when Rev. N. L. Sweet became pastor. Quite a number were added to the Church by baptism. Rev. Sweet's pastorate continued four years. Since his resignation the Church has been declining. Although twenty-eight names are reported now, but very few are active members.

SOCIETIES.

Ancient Order United Workman Lodge, of De Soto, was organized June 10, 1878. The

charter members were: James Lyttle, Fred Schmidt, William Davis, Philip B. Peters, George Eckhardt, B. D. Jenks, D. A. Steele, Fred A. Schlottman, Jacob Eckhardt and Woodbridge Dyre. The first officers were: James Lyttle P. M. W; Jacob Eckhardt, M. W; P. B. Peters, foreman; B. D. Jenks, recorder; D. A. Steele, financier; W. Dyre, receiver; George Eckhardt, guide; F. A. Schlottman, overseer; F. Schmidt, I. W; William Davis, O. W; P. B. Peters, George Eckhardt, and James Lyttle, trustees. In 1884 this lodge had a working membership of thirty-two, and was in a flourishing condition. In 1884 there was both a lodge of the Odd Fellows and Good Templars at De Soto, each in a flourishing condition.

DISASTROUS FIRES.

The steam mill of Whiting & Carr was burned in July, 1865, involving a loss of over $20,000. In March, 1879, occurred the worst conflagration that ever visited the place. The cause of this fire has always remained a mystery. It originated in the general store of L. C. Larson. Eight buildings were consumed. Mr. Ingersoll sustained the greatest loss, which included two buildings occupied as a wagon and blacksmith shop, together with a fine stock of general merchandise. His total loss was about $10,000. Among those who sustained quite heavy losses were: L. C. Larson, John L. O'Kre, J. F. Allen, Fred Schmidt and John Devlin. This fire was a serious blow to De Soto, from which it never fully recovered.

THE OLDEST SHOEMAKER IN AMERICA.

In 1884 the village of De Soto boasted of a resident, who came to the place at an early date, and who by careful investigation was found to have been actively engaged more years, at the shoe bench, than any other man in the country. This gentleman's name is Patrick De Lacy, who has been constantly engaged at the bench since twelve years of age, or a period of seventy-one years. And strange to say, after these long years of stooped shouldered work, he is as as erect as most young men of to-day.

VILLAGE OF VICTORY.

This village was laid out in 1852, by Henry W. McAuley, William F. Terhune, Ira Stevens and Hiram Rice. It was named Victory, by Judge William F. Terhune, on account of the victory over Black Hawk, which occurred near this place. There were three houses on the site of the village when it was laid out, one of which was built by Timothy Piper; the second by Hiram Rice, and the third by the French traders, who had occupied the place. The first building after the laying out of the village was built by Hiram Rice as a warehouse. This was a cheap building, 16x24 feet. The first structure of much importance was erected by John Cavinee, who kept it as a hotel for some time. He came here from Ohio, and finally moved from this point to California, where he died.

H. W. McAuley opened the first store in the building which the French traders had erected. Soon after the laying out of the town, John Cavinee became an equal partner with Mr. McAuley in the ownership of the north part of the plat. In the laying out of the village, the plat was surveyed by H. W. McAuley and Samuel McMichael.

The second store in the place was opened by John C. Berry, who kept a general stock.

The first wagon shop was started by John Bartholomew, in a building belonging to Ira Stevens.

R. Lobdell was the pioneer blacksmith.

A steam saw-mill was built by Clark Smith.

A postoffice was established at Victory in 1854. John C. Berry was the first postmaster. Among others who have held this office was R. McAuley. Mrs. August Mueller was postmistress in 1884, having succeeded her husband.

Victory has always been an important point for the buying and shipment of grain. It has three warehouses, one of which is built of stone, through which, in years gone by, has passed 100,000 bushels of wheat per annum,

besides other grains. It was built by the farmers and called the "Farmers Stock Warehouse." The two other warehouses were built respectively by John C. Berry and Spencer & Co. There is quite an amount of grain bought here now, but not so much as in earlier times.

In 1884 this village had two general stores and a harness shop.

Nancy Berry taught the first term of school in the village, which was also the first in the town of Wheatland in 1854. The place now has a good two story frame school house, which cost $1,200.

The first death in the place was that of a man named Enfield. He died early in the history of the village and was buried on the land afterward occupied as a cemetery.

This point on the Mississippi river was first known as "Stevens' Landing," from Ira Stevens the first settler. He made the original entry of fifty-four acres on which the town site was laid out. His patent bears date, Nov. 1, 1849, and was signed by President Zachary Taylor. At the time this entry was made it had been occupied by French traders for many years, who came here for the purpose of trading with the Indians.

PERSONAL HISTORIES.

Ira Stevens, of the village of Victory, has been a resident of the county since January, 1850. He was born near Toronto, Canada, in 1819. He passed the winter of 1839–40 in Chicago, and went to Galena the following spring; located at Prairie Du Chein, in 1844, and came to Bad Ax county, as stated, in 1850. He married Eliza Decker, a daughter of Moses Decker, who was the earliest settler of Viroqua.

Harriet A. Porter, of De Soto, is the widow of Henry G. Porter, who settled with his family in De Soto, Aug. 15, 1855. The family resided in the village until about 1860, when they removed to a farm on section 11, in the town of Wheatland, which Mrs. Porter still owns. Mr. Porter died December, 1880. He was a native of Oxford, Maine, where he was born Sept. 19, 1825. He was married, in 1859, in New Hampshire, to his present widow, Harriet Bryant, born in New Hampshire. She first came west with friends, in 1855, but returned to New Hampshire, where she was married. Mrs. Porter has one daughter—Mary Lillian, born in De Soto, August, 1860. Mrs. Porter is now a resident of the village of De Soto.

H. W. McAuley is a native of North Carolina. His ancestors belonged to the Mecklenberg colony, which emigrated to North Carolina from Scotland in 1774. He was born Sept. 9, 1816. His father, Daniel McAuley, emigrated to Wythe Co., Va., when H. W. was but three months old. In 1830 the family removed to Hendricks Co., Ind. Mr. McAuley came to the territory of Wisconsin, in 1835, and located at Mineral Point, in what is now Iowa county, where he engaged in mining for a time. He was in Grant county when it was organized—in May, 1835. In August, of that year, he went back to Mineral Point. Mr. McAuley, at this time, was quite a young man, and not permanently located. He returned to Indiana in the fall of 1835, but came to Wisconsin again, the following year. In 1839 he again returned to Indiana; was married and returned in 1840, locating at Lancaster, Grant county. He had built the first house in the present village of Lancaster, two years previous to that time (in 1838). In 1852 he came to the town of Wheatland, and assisted in laying out the village of Victory, as will appear in the history of the town of Wheatland. He was the first merchant in the village. He has been a resident of Vernon county since he went to Victory, June 7, 1852. In November of that year, he went to Liberty Pole and engaged in the mercantile business. In the fall of 1853 he removed his goods to Viroqua, where he was in business for some time. In the fall of 1854, owing to the difficulty of getting store room at Viroqua, he removed to the town of Sterling and located on section 16. He built a saw and grist mill, on the Bad Ax river, which was the second mill built on the Wisell branch

of this river, Ira Wisell having erected the first mill. Mr. McAuley engaged in milling till 1873, when he sold out to his sons and removed to Sparta, where he invented a turbine water wheel on which he obtained a patent. He engaged in the patent-right business for a time, and then again located at Sterling. He now resides in the town of Wheatland, on section 31, town 12 north, of range 6 west, where he is engaged in farming, and making a specialty of manufacturing sorghum. Mr. McAuley has been three times married. His first wife was Eliza Ann Richie, born in Nicholas Co., Ky. His second wife was Rebecca A. McConnell, a native of Ohio. His present wife was Melvina Sloan, born in Pennsylvania. Mr. McAuley has had twelve children, seven of whom are living. Mr. McAuley is one of the well known early settlers of Vernon county,and has been intimately connected with its growth and progress since its organization. He was one of the early attorneys of the county, having been admitted to the bar in 1842.

R. M. McAuley, of DeSoto, is the son of H. W. McAuley, now of the town of Wheatland. He came to this county with his father, in 1852. He has been a resident of the village since 1872. He is a miller by trade, having been taught that business by his father. After coming to De Soto, he opened a feed store, which he continued for some time, then engaged in general merchandising under the firm name of McAuley & Bell. The firm was afterward changed to H. W. McAuley & Son. He was engaged for one year with C. L. Ingersoll and after that with C. H. Upham. In February, 1881, he retired from merchandising and is now engaged in farming, giving special attention to the raising of sorghum. Mr. McAuley was married to Mary Young, daughter of Alex Young. She was born in Crawford county, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. McAuley have five children—John, Royal and Raymond (twins), Mary E. and Frank.

Adam Carlyle came to De Soto in August, 1855. No man has been more intimately connected with the history of the village than he. On coming to De Soto he engaged in merchandising with Thomas Dowse, under the firm name of Carlyle, Dowse & Co. In 1858 their stock and trade was sold to parties in Lansing, Iowa, and Mr. Carlyle re-embarked in business under the firm name of N. S. Cate & Co. From 1862 to 1865 he was connected with the firm of John C. Kurtz & Co. In 1870 he was employed as book-keeper by Joseph Reynolds, the owner of the "Diamond Jo" line of steamboats, and was stationed at Fulton, Ill. From 1874 to 1878 he was in Patterson, N. J., engaged with Capt. J. B. Wilcox, of Victory, in selling Minnesota flour. In 1879 Mr. Carlyle was constituted agent at De Soto for the "Diamond Jo" line of steamers, a position he has since held. Mr. Carlyle is a native of Dumfries, Scotland, born in 1826. He emigrated with his father's family to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in 1840. The family removed from New York to Canada, where the father, Walter Carlyle, resided until his death. In 1852 Mr. Carlyle went to Chicago, Ill., where he was engaged as clerk by Mills & Co. Three years later he came to De Soto. Mr. Carlyle has been connected with De Soto from its infancy and has always been highly esteemed as an upright business man and a valuable citizen. His wife, Mrs. Catharine E. (Cook) Carlyle, is a native of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle have eight children, six of whom were born in De Soto—Walter J., Catharine J., Thomas, who was the first white child born in De Soto (born Feb. 14, 1856), now at Fulton, Ill., Annie C., Mattie, Daisy M., Adam and George.

Arvin Chase resides on section 32, where he entered eighty acres, in 1855. He resided here, however, at that time for about one year, and then located in the town of Sterling, on what is known as the H. Bellows place. He re-settled here in 1870. The farm, which contains 200 acres, is now owned by his brother, R. J. Chase, who was the youngest of his father's family,

and came to the county about 1858; studied law with Judge Graham, of Viroqua, where he was admitted to the bar; served in the Union army during the Rebellion, and is now practicing his profession at Sioux City, Iowa. Another brother, Lucius, also studied law with Judge Graham. He is now deceased. The father, Jacob Chase, settled in the town of Sterling, in 1858, where he resided till his death.

James H. Rogers, general merchant and postmaster at DeSoto, was born in Indiana, in 1842; he has resided in Vernon county since 1855, when his father, B. H. Rogers came to this county, with his family, and located at Springville; he afterwards removed to the town of Wheatland, where he died in 1868. James H. enlisted in the Union army in 1862, as a soldier in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, first commanded by Capt. James Berry, afterwards by Col. Butt, and still later by Capt. J. R. Casson. Mr. Rogers participated in most of the campaigns and battles in which the twenty-fifth was engaged, including Kennesaw Mountain, siege of Vicksburg, Resaca and Sherman's march to the sea. He has been engaged in business in De Soto since 1865, building his present store in 1868, a frame building 24x36 feet. He was appointed to his present position as postmaster, October, 1865. His wife was Esther Coffin, daughter of Peleg Coffin, who settled in the town of Freeman, Crawford county, in 1855; further notice of whom will be found elsewhere. Mr. Rogers has five children—Winnie H., Minnie E., James H., Jr., Charles M. and Mary Z.

Joel T. Shaw is one of the early settlers of the town of Wheatland. He landed at DeSoto, Oct. 11, 1855, by the steamer War Eagle, which was afterwards burned at LaCrosse. The same fall he entered 120 acres of land on section 29, where he still resides. His farm now contains 160 acres, 100 acres being improved. Mr. Shaw was born in the town of Glover, Orleans Co., Vt., in 1821. His parents were Seth T. and Clarinda (Mason) Shaw. His father died in New Hampshire, and his mother in Vermont. Mr. Shaw was married in Massachusetts, to Elizabeth Bodwell, a native of New Hampshire. They have two daughters—Jane A., now Mrs. Chris Larson, born in Vermont, and Julia Frances, born in the town of Wheatland, now Mrs. Harry Clark.

One of the early settlers of the town of Wheatland is John W. White, who resides on section 11, town 11, range 7 west, where he settled in May, 1855, purchasing his land of Dr. E. B. Houghton. Mr. White is a native of Massachusetts, and was born in Fairhaven, now town of Acushuet, Mass., in 1822; where he resided until he went to New Bedford, Mass., where he was in business for a number of years. His father, Phineas White, was a cotton manufacturer. He was a lineal descendant of William White, who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, and whose son, Peregrin White, was the first child born in the pilgrim settlement. The father of Mr. White had nine children, seven of whom are living—five sons and two daughters. He died in 1878, at the advanced age of ninety-three years. John W. is the only one of the family who settled in Wisconsin. The land which Mr. White purchased of Dr. Houghton consisted of but twenty acres. On this he built a log house the year that he came here. This house is still standing, and is one of the oldest in town. Mr. White occupied it until 1878, when he erected his present residence. His farm proper contains 160 acres; this he entered as government land the year that he came here. His wife was Catharine H. Ashley, a native of Massachusetts. They have had five children, three of whom are living—James, Charles A., deceased; Alice, deceased; John M. and Edward I. The last named was born in the town of Wheatland, the others in Massachusetts. Mr. White enlisted January, 1864, in the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was in service until the close of the war. He was wounded at the battle of the Wilderness, after which he was not in active service.

Josiah F. Allen, wagon-maker of De Soto, came to Vernon county in 1856 and settled at Springville in the town of Jefferson. He is the son of Truman Allen an early settler of Springville, but at present a resident of De Soto. J. F. Allen was born in Keysville, Essex county., in 1837. When a lad he moved with his parents from the State of New York to Rock Island, Ill., thence to Springville, Wis. He afterwards returned to New York and having lived in different parts of that State he remeved from thence to De Soto, Vernon county, several years after his father had located there. At the time of the Rebellion he enlisted in the 112th New York Volunteer Infantry, and served six months, being then discharged for disability. He learned his trade, that of a wagon-maker, in Fredonia, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. He came to De Soto in the fall of 1875. Mr. Allen has been twice married; his first wife died at Fredonia; she was Almeda Taylor of Chautauqua Co., N. Y. His present wife was Emma Heal of De Soto. He has two children by his first wife—Wilton G. and Wallace T. and also two by present wife—Goldie and Silvia.

William Fosdick was born in Maine in 1810, his parents were natives of New Hampshire. He settled in De Soto in May 1855, and that year entered 120 acres of government land on section 12, where he resided for a number of years. April 1, 1873, he settled on section 36, where he now lives. He has been twice married. His first wife was Hannah Eastman who died here in 1861. His second wife was a widow when she married Mr. Fosdick, her maiden name was Clara A. Smith. She was a native of Brandon, Franklin Co., N. Y., but was brought up in Vermont. Mrs. Fosdick's first husband was Henry Webster, who died in Fairfield, Vt., in 1850. She was married to Mr. Fosdick in 1862. By his first wife Mr. Fosdick has one son, Albert E., another Henry A., was a soldier, a member of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, company I. He died at Washington, while still in the service. Mrs. Fosdick has one daughter by her first husband, Mrs. Ellen N. Cole. Mr. and Mrs. Fosdick have two children—Byron N. and Lucy G.

William Cushing resides on section 14, town 11, range 7 west. He was born in the town of Pembrook, Washington Co., Maine, in 1835. He was brought up on a farm and when a young man engaged in lumbering and milling. He came to De Soto in 1857, with N. S. Cate & Co. In 1860 he purchased a claim of S. D. Powers, and settled upon it in 1868. All improvements upon it have been made since that time. July 1, 1861, he enlisted in company I, 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served four years or until the close of the war. He participated in fifteen general engagements, including among the number the second battle of Bull Run, the battles of Gainesville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Hatches Run and Five Forks. He was wounded during the battle of Bull Run and also at Spottsylvania. He was detached to Battery D, 5th Rhode Island Light Artillery, near Cattlet's Station, Va. April 18, 1862, returned to his regiment again April, 1863. He was taken a prisoner at the Battle of Hatche's Run, Feb. 6, 1865, where he was held as a prisoner of war in Libby prison, Richmond, for two months when exchanged and returned to his regiment. For one year after the war he resided in St. Louis. He married Julia A. Warham, a native of Oswego Co., N. Y. They have three children—Mary E. Luella G. and Cassius I.

Mrs. S. G. Heal resides on section 1, in the town of Wheatland, her farm contains 112 acres. Mrs. Heal is the widow of Stephen G. Heal, who was born in England, in 1844, and died here June 29, 1879. He emigrated to the United States with his parents when he was quite young. Mr. Heal came to Vernon county in 1857, at the same time, Mr. Miller, the father of Mrs. Heal, also arrived in this county. Henry Miller was a native of Belfast, Ireland. He emigrated to this country with his family

and settled at Paterson, N. J., where he engaged in mercantile business. The year of his arrival in Vernon county he purchased the farm which his daughter now owns, of William Owles. He returned to Paterson, where he died in February, 1879; his wife died in September of the same year. They had twelve children, but four of whom are living—Eleazer J., of Paterson N. J., Joseph R., residing in the same city, Elizabeth and Ellen M. The youngest son was a member of company I, 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Heal was married to Ellen Miller, Nov. 3, 1870; he had lived in the family of Mr. Miller some time previous to this event. Some time after his marriage he purchased the farm on which Mrs. Heal now resides, of his father-in-law. Mrs. Heal has four children—Mary E., Agnes S., Lizzie H. and Henry S. She lost her oldest child, Lizzie M.

Henry H. Morgan resides on section 5, town of Wheatland. He is a son of Richard Morgan, a native of New Hampshire, who settled on this farm in 1856. When a young man, Richard Morgan moved to Maine, where he married Achsah Whitcomb. From there he moved to this State. At this time he had a family of five children—Samuel, the eldest, came here with a family of his own; he now resides in Ogden, Boone Co., Iowa. Joseph, the second son is now in the town of Sterling. Two other children are Achsah and Henry H., the latter of whom owns the homestead where his father settled in 1856. He was born in the State of Maine, in 1840, and came to this county the year after his father. He married Elizabeth Phillips, a native of Monmouthshire, England. Edmund Phillips, her father, having died in England, her mother emigrated to the United States with her family in 1854. Mrs. Phillips moved to De Soto in 1863, and resided there until her death, which occurred in May, 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have five children—Mary W., Roscoe P., Grace C., Wesley H. and Maurice E. The homestead farm has now 220 acres, it originally contained 240. Mr. Morgan is one of the prominent farmers of the town of Wheatland. He has been a justice of the peace and assessor of the town, and is at present chairman of the town board, a position which he has held for six years.

Charles Reiter, owner of the De Soto brewery and also of the Lansing and De Soto ferry boat, J. A. Rhomburg, is the son of Martin Reiter, who settled in the town of Freeman, Crawford Co., Wis., in 1853. In 1857 he settled at Retreat, in the town of Sterling, of this county, where he lived about twelve years. He then settled in the town of Wheatland. He removed to Minnesota, in 1872, where he now lives. He is a native of Germany; his wife was born in America. Charles E., was born in Albany Co., N. Y., in 1851, and came to Wisconsin with his parents. With the exception of six years, ending in 1878, which he spent on the frontier of Minnesota, he has been a resident of Vernon county since he came here with his father's family. Before engaging in his present occupation he was engaged in farming and stock buying for several years. His wife was Cora A. Green, a native of Vermont. They have three children—William H., Charles W. and Myrtie.

One of the early settlers of the town of Wheatland, is Jeremiah J. Tenney, who resides on section 6, on the farm which he entered June 11, 1855. He made some improvements on the place the first season, and brought his family here April 26, 1856. He entered 245 acres on sections 6 and 7, and still owns that amount of land, although he has disposed of part of his original entry. Mr. Tenney was born in the town of Topsfield, Essex Co., Mass., April 17, 1805. From the age of seven till that of nineteen years he lived in the State of Maine; afterwards he was a resident of Massachusetts and New Hampshire until he came here. Mr. Tenney learned the trade of a millwright. He was a skillful mechanic, and for many years en-

gaged in business pertaining to his trade. For eight years in Manchester, N. H., and ten years in Lawrence, Mass., he was employed as a millwright in manufacturing establishments. He went to Manchester before the first mill was built there, and from there to Lawrence, where he was engaged to assist in the erection of mills. For over twenty years he followed his trade of a millwright. He married Patience Choate (Proctor), who was born in Derry, Rockingham Co., N. H., Jan. 26, 1807, and died March 5, 1877. Mr. Tenney has five children—Charles A., Jacob, Elizabeth, Thomas and Lyman W. He lost three children, two of whom died in infancy, the other a son, Gilman, enlisted in company A, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served about fifteen months, when his health failing him he obtained a furlough, hoping a visit home would fully restore him. He arrived at De Soto in a very feeble condition, and stopped at the home of his comrade, Charles Tilden, where he suddenly died, not having reached his destination. The loss of his son was a terrible blow to his father, and he still feels deeply his sad affliction. Charles, the oldest son, lives in the town of Wheatland; was a soldier in the Union army, and is a teacher by profession. Thomas was born in Manchester, N. H. He is also a teacher. Elizabeth, the only daughter, a native of Derry, N. H., followed the same profession for many years.

John C. Davis came to De Soto in 1858, in the interests of the milling firm of N. S. Cate & Co. He was born in the town of Chester, Rockingham Co., N. H., in October, 1826. The earlier years of his life, from the time he was five years old, were spent in Haverhill, Mass., in the family of a man named Crowell, his father, John Davis, having died when he was quite young. His mother, formerly Polly Emerson, was a native of Chester, N. H., and died in Massachusetts in 1862. Mr. Davis married Sarah M. Blood, a native of Boston. For some time after coming to De Soto, Mr. Davis continued in his position as agent for N. S. Cate & Co. Afterwards for several years he was engaged in the mercantile trade, and at the same time was agent of the Northwestern Insurance Co. He was a man quite generally known in the county, especially as an agriculturalist. For a long time he was a member of the M. E. Church, and for several years a preacher of that denomination. He died Aug. 16, 1883. He had been an invalid for a number of years and a great sufferer during that time; but his sufferings were greatly alleviated by the constant and devoted attentions of his faithful wife and daughters. The family at present consists of Mrs. Davis and six children —Ellen, Lisette, Edward S., E. Stacy, Cora F., Susie E. and Russell.

Noah E. French is engaged in the grocery and restaurant business at De Soto. In 1859 he came to the town of Wheatland with his uncle, James Davenport, who now lives in Crawford county, and has been a resident of this town ever since. His father, Noble P. French, died in the State of Indiana when Noah E. was a child. His mother, Ruth, came here with her second husband, Benjamin Rogers. She died in 1873. Noah E. French was born in Broome Co., N. Y., in 1843. From New York he moved to Indiana, from there to Grundy Co., Ill., coming here from the last named State. He married Sophia Gould, a daughter of Joseph Gould, a native of Massachusetts. She died here Aug. 13, 1872. Mr. French's present wife was Elizabeth Powell, daughter of Francis E. Powell. Mr. French has one daughter by his first marriage—Minnie J., and five children by his second wife—Mary, Lizzie, Bertha, Nellie and Noble P.

William A Hodge, of Victory, is proprietor of the Victoria Nursery and is extensively engaged in fruit growing. In 1866 he entered eighty acres of land on section 27, which he at once began to improve. In 1868 he began the nursery business and has been successfully engaged in that business until the present time.

He makes a specialty of small fruits; has a large experience in the business and follows his occupation with a perseverance and ardor which indicate both his love for the business and his determination to succeed. Marked success has attended his labors. His stock includes all kinds of apples, which his experience has taught him are adapted to this climate. He has a great variety of plums, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, etc. The business is carried on in a most systematic manner, Mr. Hodge himself performing a large part of the labor required. The satisfaction that is expressed with the stock he produces is well attested by his large patronage. His business is constantly increasing; within the last few years he has purchased forty lots in the village of Victory, which he is devoting to nursery stock and small fruit. He is also engaged in the raising of sorghum, manufacturing from 1,500 to 2,000 gallons annually. Among his industries may also be mentioned bee keeping and market gardening, supplying the steamboats with vegetables and shipping also to La Crosse and Lansing. Recently he established a mill of four horse power, suitable for all kinds of grinding, except flour. Mr. Hodge is one of the most active business men in Vernon county. He was born in Yates Co., N. Y., in 1832; there he also received his education. He enlisted in the war of the Rebellion in the 46th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served nine months; being badly wounded at the battle of Harrisonburg, Va., he was discharged for disability. In 1864 he came to Wisconsin. His wife, Jane Williams, was born in Rockford, Ill. She came to Vernon county with her mother, Permelia Williams, who died in this town in 1862. Her father died in Rockford, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge have two children—Olive Jane and Clara L.

Alfred Proctor came to the town of Wheatland from Lynn, Mass., in 1862. In 1865 he settled on his present farm, which he purchased of Alfred Rolfe. His farm consists of 160 acres on which all improvements have been made since his possession of it. Mr. Proctor was born in Derry, N. H., in 1818. His parents, Jacob and Lois (Lufkin) Proctor, were natives of Gloucester, Mass. They both died in Derry, N. H. He has been twice married. His first wife was Mary Ann Blodgett, born in Malden, Mass., in 1824, but died in this State in 1865. His present wife is a lineal descendant of Dr. Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination as a preventative of the small pox. Mrs. Proctor was born in Paterson, N. J., in 1824. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Jenner. Her father, William Jenner, died in 1835, when she was eleven years old. From New Jersey she removed to Ohio, where she married Enoch Yocum in Cincinnati in 1847, who died in Toledo in 1853. After the death of her husband Mrs. Yocum returned to New Jersey and with her mother's family removed to Salem, Henry Co., Iowa. At this place she was married to Samuel H. Woodmansee in 1857 and removed with him to Lansing, Iowa, at which place he died in 1863. Several years later (1868) she was married to Mr. Proctor. By his first wife Mr. Proctor had seven children, two of whom are living in Chicago, two in Washington territory, two in the town of Sterling, Vernon Co., Wis., and one remains at home. Mrs. Proctor had two children by her first marriage; both of them died in infancy. Mrs. Proctor's mother died in Crawford Co., Wis., in 1879.

One of the earliest settlers of Vernon county is Alexander Latshaw. Perhaps, with the exception of Lee Grant Sterling, there is no older resident of the county. In 1847 he made an entry in the town of Sterling, on sections 3 and 4, town 11, range 6 west. At the time of his arrival there were but two families in the town —those of L. G. Sterling and George Nichols. In 1867 he removed from Sterling to Victory, where he has since resided. His son James, born June 18, 1847, was the first male white child born in Vernon county. Mr. Latshaw is a native of Sullivan Co., Ind., where he was

born in 1824. His father, Joseph Latshaw, was a native of Pennsylvania, from which State he removed to Indiana, where he lived until his death, in September, 1845. He settled in Indiana in the year 1814. Mr. Latshaw has generally been engaged in farming; he is at present in the wood trade. He married Mary Clark, daughter of William Clark, a native of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Latshaw have seven children—James, Albert, Belle, Edward, Kate, Nellie and Clare—four sons and three daughters, all of whom were born in the town of Sterling except Clare, the youngest, who is a native of Victory.

John D. Babcock is the son of Simeon Babcock, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Crawford county with his family in 1854, but died the following year, before he had made a settlement. The family settled, soon after the father's death, in the town of Freeman, Crawford county. He was married three times; his widow, Liberty Furman, a native of Pennsylvania, lives in De Soto. Simeon Babcock had six children by his last wife. John D. resides in De Soto; was born in Pennsylvania in 1851; has lived in De Soto since 1865; he married Rossie Greene, a native of Vermont. Mr. Babcock is at present engaged in buying grain for the firm of Fred Eckhardt & Co.

Charles H. Upham, general merchant, came to this State and also to De Soto in 1873. He was born in Great Barrington, Mass., in 1853. On coming to De Soto Mr. Upham engaged himself as a clerk to Stevens & Son, in general merchandising business. He remained with them three years, when he engaged in business for himself. He keeps a complete stock of general goods. Hardware is an important department of his business; also the manufacture of tinware, as he is a tinner by trade. He also handles farming implements. Mr. Upham came to De Soto a young man, with but little means, and by attention to business he has succeeded in establishing a good trade. His stock is one of the most complete in the village. He married Elizabeth Duffy, a native of Wisconsin.

Joshua A. Cooper, wagon and carriage manufacturer at De Soto, established his business Oct. 1, 1875. He was born in Connecticut in 1833. His father died when he was a child. Mr. Cooper has spent a number of years of his life in traveling, and has visited various parts of the United States. When about eighteen years of age he went to Richmond, Va., where he lived three or four years. He established a wagon manufacturing business at Winona, Minn., in 1857. As before stated, Mr. Cooper has traveled extensively, having worked in not less than twenty-three States and territories; also in Canada. He married Jane Coy, a native of New York. They have three children—Edward L., Alice M. and William A. The oldest was born in Montana, and William in Preston, Minn. Mr. Cooper is engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages; also sells farming implements.

The firm of C. Lyttle & Co. consists of C. Lyttle and Peyton Davidson, of La Crosse. Mr. Lyttle came to De Soto and engaged in the lumber business, in the spring of 1876, which he conducted alone for two years, and was then joined in business by his brother, James, who was with him one year. Mr. Lyttle was again in business alone for one year in the lumber and stock trade. The present firm was formed in 1881. They transact a large business in lumber, stock and general merchandising. Mr. Lyttle, who conducts the business, is a gentleman of excellent business qualifications. He is also agent for the Northwestern Line of steamboats. He is a native of Canada and an early settler of La Crosse county, Wisconsin. Mr. Lyttle was born in 1847 and came to De Soto in 1876. His wife was Alice Haney, a daughter of James H. Haney.

George C Clark, of the village of Victory, is one of the oldest residents now living in the county. He was born in Knox Co., Ind., Nov.

13, 1833, and came to the town of Sterling in the spring of 1847 with Alexander Latshaw. At the same time came J. L. Tewalt and Lewis Trainer, the former of whom settled in the town of Sterling. The latter settled at Dodgeville, Iowa county, but afterward removed to Muscoda, where he died. He came to Vernon county with his mother's family, consisting of eight children, his father, William Clark, having died when he was a boy. His mother, Matilda Clark, settled at Walnut Mound, now called Retreat, in the town of Sterling. She now lives in Victory. Mr. Clark came to Victory in 1881 and engaged in merchandising. He married Sarah Wilcox, a native of Indiana. They have three children—Lola L., Effie and Russell. The children of Mrs. Matilda Clark are as follows--Mrs. Martha Chandler (deceased), Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey, James A., who went to California in 1852 and still lives there; Mrs. Mary Latshaw, William P., at Tomah; Mrs. Jane Messersmith; George C. and Franklin.

CHAPTER L.

TOWN OF WHITESTOWN.

The town of Whitestown is located in the northern tier of towns in Vernon county, and the third town west of the eastern boundary of the county. The town is bounded on the north by Monroe county, on the east by the town of Forest, on the south by the town of Stark, and on the west by the town of Clinton. The town contains thirty-six sections. It was named in honor of Giles White, the first settler in the town.

The surface of the town is very rough and rolling, but five large streams of running water and numerous springs contribute to the fertility of the soil, and form an abundant supply for stock and living purposes. The main stream of the Kickapoo river enters the town on section 2, taking almost a direct southerly course through the town, and leaves on section 34. Brush creek enters on section 4, and empties in the Kickapoo river on section 2. The north and south branches of Billings creek flow through the town of Forest, uniting near the center of section 13, of this town, and joining the Kickapoo river on section 26. Weister creek enters the town on section 30, leaving on section 31; and Warner creek enters on section 36, and flows into the Kickapoo river on section 35.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

As stated, the town was named in honor of the first settler, Giles White, who came to the town in July, 1853.

Sidney Waite settled on Billings creek in 1854, and was a resident of the town in 1884.

William Sandon came in the fall of 1854. In 1884 he was proprietor of the Vernon Hotel at Ontario.

About the same time came Washington McFee and settled on section 14, where he remained till his death, in 1867.

William Finnell settled on section 3, in 1856. The same year O. H. Millard came and opened a store at Ontario. His family came the following spring. He was still in trade in 1884.

Germany was the birth place of Henry Sebach, one of the first citizens. He was born in 1827, and came to the United States the same year. He entered a quarter section of land on section 34, where he still resides.

M. W. Steadman, who first saw the light of day in the "old Bay State," was the fourth to locate his family in the new region. He came in the spring of 1855 and entered 160 acres of land on section 3. He was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., in 1813; was married in Madison Co., N. Y., in 1844, to Maria White. They have three children—Ellen, wife of Robert Sandon; Martha, wife of William Sandon, and Lorenzo. Mr. Steadman now operates the feed mill and carding machine of Robert Sandon, in the village of Ontario.

W. W. Joseph also came in 1855, and entered land on section 11. He is now deceased. He was followed by John Ostrander, who settled on section 23, but is now living in one of the western territories.

James Horn settled here in 1855, but now resides elsewhere.

O. H. Millard

Willard Hart came in 1856 and entered land on section 9.

Three mechanics from New York came in the spring of 1856. George Prentice, a native of Chenango county, Nathan and Elvarus Culver, who were born in St. Lawrence county. The latter was also a millwright by trade.

Lewis Daniels accompanied M. W. Steadman and George Prentice to Whitestown, in 1855, but after remaining a short time returned to Ohio, his native State.

The year 1857 witnessed the advent of several new comers. Anthony Lamb settled on section 1, where he entered forty acres of land, and where his widow still resides. In 1862 Mr. Lamb enlisted in the United States service and departed this life in a government hospital. An Englishman and a native of the Empire State, also cast their lot in the new settlement, and at the present time none are more highly esteemed than these two pioneers—Robert Sandon and O. H. Millard.

Samuel Sloggy came in 1859 and became one of the leading business men of Ontario.

ORGANIC.

This town was organized in 1856, and the first election for town officers was held at the store of George Prentice, in the village of Ontario, April 7, 1857. There were but fourteen votes polled, and when these were counted it was found that the following named persons were elected to their respective offices: Giles White, chairman, Washington McFee and William Hart, assistants; George Prentice, clerk; Willard R. Hart, treasurer; Washington McFee, assessor; Myron Tuttle, superintendent of schools. The present officers of the town are: Henry O. Connell, chairman, Michael Nevin and August Kreigle, assistants; Addison Sloggy, clerk; George Prentice, treasurer; William Fish, assessor.

RECORD OF FIRST EVENTS.

The first settler was Giles White, who located in 1853. He built the first house in the fall of the same year.

The first mill in the town was a saw-mill, erected by Mr. White in the summer of 1865, on the Kickapoo river on section 2, and run by water power.

The first school was taught by Ellen Steadman (now the wife of Robert Sandon) in a double log cabin on section 2.

The first birth in the town was Eugene, son of Sidney Wait, born in December, 1853.

The first death was a Mr. Bushnell.

The first land was cleared up by Washington McFee, on the northwest quarter of section 14.

The first couple married in the town of Whitestown was Washington McFee and Mrs. William H. Tiderick, in 1857, M. W. Steadman, a justice of the peace, officiating.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. Revels, in 1857.

The first grist mill was erected on Brush creek, in 1859, by George Prentice.

RELIGIOUS.

There are two bodies of worshipers in the town—the Norwegian Lutheran Church and the Baptist Church, the latter of which is located in the village of Ontario.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church was organized in 1868, with Rev. Prince as the first pastor. The church edifice is 20x30 feet in size, and was erected in 1875 at a cost of $320. The first trustees were: Barde Evensen and Christian Thompson. The present trustees are: Mathew Allison and Ole Oleson. The first pastor, Rev. Prince, was succeeded by the present one, Rev. Halverson. The congregation, at the present time, numbers about seventy souls.

The Baptist Church, of Ontario village, was organized in 1859, by the Rev. B. S. Tuttle, with the following named members: Myron W. Steadman, M. Curtis, Maria P. Steadman, Caroline White and Ellen Sandon. The congretion was quite small at first, and for some years met for worship at the dwelling houses of its members. In 1875 they had secured enough funds to erect a church, and it was finally com-

pleted and dedicated to the service of the Master, on Aug. 24, 1879. Rev. W. F. Phillips officiated, with Robert Sandon as clerk, and M. M. Curtis and M. W. Steadman as deacons. The building is of frame, 32x50 feet in size, and the cost of erection was about $1,200. The present membership is sixty-five, and the present officers are as follows: Elder, W. F. Phillips; clerk, O. H. Millard; treasurer, T. L. DeLap; deacons, H. J. Phelps and R. Sandon.

EDUCATIONAL.

Great progress has been made in the town in matters of education, as in those of agriculture and religion. The population has increased, and better facilities are needed. The present school population of Whitestown is 329, and they gather for instruction in six different school buildings, with an aggregate valuation of $2,000.

POSTOFFICES.

There are two postoffices in the town—one at Ontario and the other at Rockton. These will be mentioned in the history of each village.

CEMETERIES.

In 1884 there were three cemeteries in the town, the oldest of which was at the village of Ontario. Another was on section 6. This was a Norwegian burying place, and known as the Brush Creek Cemetery. The other was situated near the village of Rockton.

THE VILLAGE OF ONTARIO.

The village of Ontario was laid out and platted, in 1857, by Giles White. It was named Ontario, at the request of O. H. Millard, after his native county, in the State of New York. Giles White erected the first frame house, in 1856. George Prentice opened the first store, in 1856. Giles White erected the first saw mill, in 1855. The first blacksmith was H. I. Bushnell. The first shoemaker was Sidney Mills. The first physician in the village was Dr. W. R. Hart, who settled in 1857. The first school building was erected in 1859. The present school is a graded one, and the building was erected in 1870. The first flouring mill was erected by George Prentice, in 1859. The first hotel was erected, in 1862, by S. D. Cottrell. The first wagon-maker was Hiram Timerman, who settled in the village in 1864. The first surgical operation in the town was performed by Giles White, which came about in the following laughable manner: Mrs. Hiram Bushnell, who was one of the pioneer women, had been afflicted for some time with an in-growing toe nail, and one day she was about the mill, where Mr. White was at work, when she was complaining of her toe, and remarked to him, that she wished some one would cut her toe off. Mr. White, in fun, said "I will cut it off, if you say so." Mrs. Bushnell told him to do it; so he told her to go to his bench and get a big firmer chisel and he would do it. He had no idea she was in earnest, but she got his chisel and placed her foot on a solid block and told him to go ahead. Mr. White took one look at the toe, which had become badly swollen, and with the nerve of an expert army surgeon he took his mallet, and, with one blow, severed the toe and bound it up in good shape.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF 1884.

General stock.—Robert Sandon, Sandon & White, George Prentice and O. H. Millard.

Drugs, Groceries and Crockery.—S. Sloggy and H. J. Phelps. Mr. Sloggy settled here in 1859, and claims that his father's family is the last one of that name in existence.

Furniture.—Hiram Timerman.

Millinery.—Mrs. Ida Johnson.

Grist Mill.—Sandon & White and Nathan Culver.

Saw Mill.—Sandon & White.

Wagon Manufacturers.—Timerman Bros.

Feed Mill and Carding Machine.—M. W. Steadman.

Gunsmith.—William Fuller.

Blacksmiths.—Lower & Son, S. P. Marden and Timerman Bros.

Cooper.—Robert Butler.

Shoemaking.—Robert Lee.

Physician.—H. P. Miller.

REMINISCENCE OF NATHAN CULVER.

"I was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in September, 1820, and resided there until 1831. I then accompanied my parents to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where I received such an education as could be obtained in the common schools at that time. I learned the cabinet and chair-maker's trade with my father, and worked in his factory until 1844 and then removed to Platteville, Grant Co., Wis., and there rebuilt the Morehead mills. In 1846 I moved to Fayette Co., Iowa, and there commenced the erection of a mill. I remained about one year, but owing to poor health moved to Black River, Wis. There I worked at millwrighting and lumbering for nine years, then in 1856 I came to the new settlement in the town of Whitestown and constructed a mill for Giles White and also one for Thomas Wilkerson. In 1858 I pre-empted 130 acres of land on section 2 and now own 100 acres of land on the same section, a residence and four acres of land in the village of Ontario, and a flouring mill. The grist mill is supplied with one run of buhrs for wheat, and one run for feed corn and buckwheat, and one middling mill, with a capacity altogether of 100 bushels of wheat per day. In 1861 I enlisted in the 18th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the engagement at Pittsburg Landing and when near Corinth, Miss, was taken prisoner by Baxter's cavalry, Sept. 1, 1862; was taken fifty miles to where Baxter's band were camped. There I found two soldiers that had been taken the week before. One was a surgeon, the other a commissary sergeant, both members of my regiment, and also eight prisoners that belonged to the 15th Michigan regiment. The next morning we were all put into one two-horse wagon—twelve of us—with one team of mules attached. We had to get out at every hill we came to, and as it was over forty miles to the railroad where we were to take the cars it took all day to get to Gen. Price's headquarters. We were put in a building about 22x80 feet. One door and two windows at one end and one door and one window in the other end was all the chance for any air. The enemy had a number of their own men in there, making, in fact, about as many as could stand up. The dust was over an inch deep on the floor and it would have been almost suffocating but for the tobacco chewers, who were very industrious. All that could find room laid down in the dust that night with our heads to the wall and the next morning such a dirty, dusty set of men never was seen before or since. The surgeon and the commissary sergeant had been taken away during the night. The next day we were put aboard some box cars and found seats on some molasses barrels in the bottom of the cars. We rode for two days and one night. They run the train pretty fast, and when the cars stopped we were ordered to march about one-half mile and were halted on a piece of low land with a heavy guard around us; no shelter of any kind, nor anything but the ground to sleep on. We ascertained we were near Jackson, Miss. At this place we were given for our rations corn meal and fresh beef. They told us to sift our meal and take the bran to make coffee. They said they had no coffee for us. After we had been there two days, in the night it began to rain, and we had to stand up and take it as it came. It made me think of home. We would often talk and wonder what the enemy would do with us. One said that if our men would come near the town the enemy would have us shot. We would often talk among ourselves, as we were forbidden to talk to the guard. We were there about eight days, and then received orders to be ready to march. At last we were marched to the cars, put aboard, and the train soon started. After about a two hours ride we found ourselves at Vicksburg, Miss. At this time there were about 300 prisoners, and we were all marched a short distance to the jail, and were put in the jail yard, with a high brick wall around us, and with guards on top of the wall. Our rations at this

place were a piece of "johnnycake," two and one-half inches wide at one end and running to a point at the other, three and three-quarters inches thick, and a piece of fried pork one and one-eighth inches square, and one quarter inch thick. These we received twice a day. We were there about four days, then were ordered in line, and the enemy's officer took our name, weight, height, complexion and color of our hair and eyes; then we were marched out and down to the river aboard a confederate boat, and steamed up the Mississippi river till we met a gun boat, the Tyler, and were put aboard. It was getting dark, and the gun boat started slowly up the river. The next morning about 9 o'clock we were given a piece of hard tack, which was so mouldy and musty that some would throw their share overboard, saying they would rather have nothing than to have spoiled sea bread. We received but two a day, bad as they were. After two days had passed one of the officers of the boat told us he was short of provisions, but that there was a plantation a short distance up the river. He further said that they went on shore one day to go to this house, and had quite a battle with twenty-five or thirty guerrillas. He said to us, "now all that will volunteer to go fall in line." We quickly fell in line on the boat, seventy-two of us, and after being organized, and our salutations made, went ashore and marched up to the place. We put out pickets all around the plantation, some distance from the house. There was not a white person on the place, but about 200 negroes, who appeared very glad to see us. We were there about three hours, and no opposition was shown to us. The signal was given, and we all returned to the boat. We got fifteen sheep, twelve geese and two cart loads of green corn. We now thought we would get something good to eat soon, for we were very hungry. When night came on our supper consisted of the same hard tack. It set us thinking, and at last we talked it over and settled on a plan. We knew where the muskets were located that we had used, and knew they were loaded. We had an attack all planned, and were waiting for the signal when every soldier would grab a musket. We have seen hard fare, but not so hard as we did on this boat. We had now been on the boat some four days. In some way our plan must have leaked out, for when it came the right time of day for our hard tack, we got none, but still a little later they came with coffee, boiled mutton and bread, the first good "square meal" we had for a long time. We got our regular meals for two days, and then our transport boat came and took us off, and we went up the river. On our way up the guerillas fired into the boat and shot one man in the foot. This was about all the damage they done. We were taken to Cairo, Ill., where the most of us got furloughs and went home. They would not give a furlough for longer than thirteen days, so I joined my regiment at Corinth, Miss. I married Minerva Woods, and three children were the result of this union—Arabella, Clarence and Frank. I was divorced from my first wife, and subsequently married Louisa Doener."

POST OFFICE.

Now, in the days of railway postal cards running their ceaseless race from ocean to ocean, one can scarcely conceive of the inconvenience endured by the early pioneers in securing their mail. Prior to 1857 the settlers had to depend upon passers by, going to and from Madison, for their mail. The nearest postoffice was then at Readsburg, a distance of over fifty miles, then it was shortened up to Coon Prairie (Cashton) and in 1875 it was brought from the Chicago & Northwestern railway, at Norwalk. But in 1884 the facilities were much improved. At this date mail was received at Ontario from Norwalk daily, from Viroqua twice a week and from Viola three times a week.

O. H. Millard was appointed the first postmaster in 1857 and served till 1862, when he was removed by the presentation of a forged petition amounting to a complaint. Mr.

Millard was fully vindicated in this matter and the blame will ever rest where it should —on the man who thus became guilty of forging names to a petition for his removal. Mr. Millard was succeeded by George Prentice. T. L. De Lap is the present incumbent. In 1882 the money order office was created, and the first order was issued to William Sandon, August 7, and sent to O. I. Newton, Sparta, Wis. The first order paid was issued at Mistic Ridge, Conn., and paid to Mrs. Mary Raferty. The annual amount of business done at the Ontario office aggregates about $8,000.

SOCIETIES.

Good Templar Lodge, No. 115, of Ontario, Wisconsin, was organized in 1883, with the following named charter members: Robert Sandon and wife, H. H. Steadman and wife, H. J. Phelps, L. C. Steadman and wife, W. Sandon and wife, Walter Chritchett, C. F. White, H. H. Goodnough and wife and Edwin Lamb and wife. The membership has increased quite rapidly, and at present numbers fifty. The lodge is doing a good work, and deserves the support and encouragement of all worthy citizens.

Ontario Lodge of I. O. O. F., No. 277, was organized in 1878, with ten charter members. The lodge first occupied Sloggy's Hall and from there moved to E. W. Sandon's Hall, and in 1884 were located in O. H. Millard's Hall.

A temperance society known as the Temple of Honor was instituted at Ontario which was in operation about six years. It commenced with a membership of eight and increased to sixty-five. This society went down on account of numerous removals from the place.

MILLS.

George Prentice built a grist mill in 1859 on Brush creek. This mill soon passed into the hands of Giles White, who later sold the water power back to Mr. Prentice, and moved the machinery to another locality. In 1861 Giles White built a mill which contained two run of stones. This was situated on the Kickapoo river, and in 1884 was operated by Sandon & White.

THE VILLAGE OF ROCKTON.

The village of Rockton was laid out and platted by Hon. Van S. Bennett, in 1873, on section 34. The plat contains eight blocks or squares, and the name Rockton was meant to be in harmony with the rough and rocky surface of the country near the village.

The first store in the village was opened by Jesse Harness.

The first mill was a grist mill, erected in 1865 by Frank Laughton.

The first saw mill was erected, by Van S. Bennett, in 1866.

The first dwelling house was erected by Jesse Osborn, in 1866.

The first hotel was erected in 1869, by Frank Obert.

The first sermon was delivered by Rev. Alderman, in 1870.

The first blacksmith was Samuel Perkins. He opened a shop in 1873.

The first physician was A. J. Lewis, who located here in 1875.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF 1884.

Dry goods and general stock, Van S. Bennett; blacksmith, J. C. Winson; flouring mill, Bennett & Widmer; saw mill, Bennett & White; hotel, M. P. Chase.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

The I. O. O. F. lodge of Rockton was organized in 1883, with the following named charter members:

J. White, J. Wagoner, J. C. Winsor, William J. Thomas, August Kriegel and J. C. Nixon.

The present officers are: J. W. White, N. G.; J. Wagoner, V. G.; Edward Nixon, R. S.; Arnold Widner, P. S.; William J. Thomas, treasurer.

The Masonic lodge at Rockton was organized in 1876. Its charter members were:

Van S. Bennett, Alexander Hill, Jr., J. F. Keeton, C. G. Stebbins, J. O. Parker, S. Smith, Robert Ware and David Killicut.

The first officers elected were as follows:

Alexander Hill, W. M.; C. G. Stebbins, S. W.; J. F. Keeton, J. W.; Van S. Bennett, secretary and J. G. Parker, treasurer.

The present officers are: Alexander Hill, W. M.; Van S. Bennett, S. W.; H. C. Millard, J. W.; W. J. Wagner, secretary and O. H. Rolfe, treasurer.

POSTOFFICE.

The postoffice in this village was established in 1871 and Jesse Harness was its first postmaster. He was succeeded by the present incumbent, Van S. Bennett.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

This town was among the first settled in the county, consequently there are clustered in and near the town some of the early settlers of the county and their descendants. To these are here given personal mention in the order, as near as possible, in which they located:

Casper Adler, from a "little German home across the sea," came in 1854. He was born in the village of Baldern, county of Narasheim, kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, in 1834, and when nineteen years of age came to the United States. He was first employed in a brick yard at Milwaukee, Wis., and afterward on the Illinois Central Railroad and spent the year following at work in a brick yard at Galena, Ill. In 1854 he came to Whitestown and entered forty acres of land on section 34, which he has since increased to sixty acres. He was married in 1863 to Catharine E. Miller, and six children were born to this union—Rudolph, Joseph, Andrew, Charles, Mary and Caroline. Mrs. Adler departed this life in 1879 and Mr. Adler was again married in 1883 to Mrs. Edith M. Seaman.

William Sandon was born in the city of Northampton, England, in February, 1836. In 1845, when nine years of age, he emigrated with his parents to America, and located in the town of Burke, Dane Co., Wis., where he grew to manhood, receiving a fair education. In 1855 he came to Vernon county, then known as Bad Ax, and soon after was engaged in hauling supplies to the lumbermen on the Kickapoo river. Two years later he commenced working in the rake factory of M. W. Stedman, where he continued until 1861. He then enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry as a private in company G. In March, 1862, he was appointed 2d sergeant. In November, 1862, he was promoted to orderly sergeant and in September, 1863, he was commissioned 1st lieutenant. In the spring of 1864 he commanded company E of his regiment. He was wounded in the battle of Dandridge, Tenn. In May, 1864, the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry took a prominent part in the battle of Rocky-face Ridge, in which Lieut. Sandon was wounded and taken prisoner. He was held prisoner until March, 1865, when he was exchanged and in May was discharged. William Sandon is now, and has been for eight years past, proprietor of the Vernon House at Ontario. In 1859 he was married to Martha Stedman. They have four sons—Charles M., George T., Murt W. and Lou E. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors, supervisor and town clerk.

Mrs. William H. Tedrick and family removed here from Ohio in the autumn of 1855. William H. Tederick was born in Guernsey Co., Ohio, in 1824, and died there in 1852. His wife was born in 1823, and they were married in 1844. Mrs. Tedrick was married in 1857, to Washington McFee, of Whitestown, but died at the residence of her son, Truman, on section 10, in 1882. Truman Tederick was born in Guernsey Co, Ohio, in 1850, and accompanied his mother to this new country. He was married in 1882 to Didama, daughter of Madison Lower, of the village of Ontario.

Giles White, the pioneer settler of Whitestown, was a native of the good old Empire State. He was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., in 1820. His educational facilities were as good as the schools of those days afforded, and in 1837, when but seventeen years old, he made a long western journey to Medina Co., Ohio, in the

northern part of the Buckeye State. He there engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1853, when his health failed. At this time he was a married man with a family, and for two years he traveled constantly over several States, seeking that which is more precious to mortal beings than gold or precious stones—the enjoyment of good health. Finally, in 1855, he selected a home among the timbered lands in the northeastern part of Vernon Co., Wis. He was the first white settler in what is now the town of Whitestown, and located 200 acres of land on section 2. In the following year he erected a saw-mill for the combined benefit of himself and the incoming settlers, and in 1857 laid out and platted the village of Ontario. He was the first chairman of the town board of supervisors, and during his residence here has been actively engaged in lumbering, milling, merchandising and farming. The earnest and energetic efforts given to one and all of these occupations have not been unfruitful of good results, both for Mr. White and the entire community. He has prospered slowly but surely, and of late years has been enjoying the benefits derived from his long labors of toil. In 1843, while a resident of Medina Co., Ohio, Mr. White was married to Caroline, daughter of Ezra and Martha Kelley. Mrs. White was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., in 1824. She is the mother of three children, two living—Angie, wife of Elbert W Sandon, and Cassius F. Mary E. died in 1865.

Elvarus Culver, now a resident of Doniphan, Mo., was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in 1829. The year following his parents removed to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where our subject was educated and learned the cabinet and millwright trades. In 1856 he removed to the town of Whitestown and purchased a stock of goods from George Prentice. He was engaged in mercantile pursuits, in the village of Ontario, for twelve years. He now owns eighty acres of land in the town, but resides in Doniphan, Mo. In 1852 he married Ruby Oliver, and six children have been given them—Hettie, wife of William Lower; William, who married Amanda Webster; Charles, Bert, Nellie and Sibyl. Charles, the third child and second son, is a native of Whitestown. He has been a resident here all his life with the exception of eighteen months spent at St. Louis, Mo. He married Emma C. Webster, and they have one son—Eddie C. Mr. Culver is the owner of a residence and two lots in the village of Ontario.

George Prentice, one of theleading citizens and prominent business men of Ontario village, was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., in 1816. When twelve years of age his parents removed to Medina Co., Ohio, where George received the benefit of a good common school education. He learned the cabinet maker's trade, and in the spring of 1856 came to Whitestown, Wis. He opened the first store in the village of Ontario, which he conducted for eighteen months. He then sold the stock to O. H. Millard, and in 1859, erected the first grist-mill in the village. This he traded to Giles White for a stock of goods, and he was again engaged in the mercantile trade for three years. He then disposed of his stock to Elvarus Culver. He then erected a steam saw-mill, but sold it three years after to a Mr. De Hart. Mr. Prentice then leased the grist-mill from Mr. White and operated it for eight years. He subsequently bought another general stock of goods, which he is now selling. Mr. Prentice was one of the pioneers of the town, and has been largely instrumental in improving the village of Ontario. When the town was organized in 1857, he was elected clerk, also in 1859, and has served as treasurer of the town since its organization, twenty-one years.

O. H. Millard, one of the prominent citizens of the town of Whitestown, Vernon county was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., in 1825. He lived in his native place until seventeen years of age, when he went to Ogdensburgh, N. Y., and found employment in a forwarding house. In the spring of 1844 he came west, by way of the

lakes in a schooner to Chicago, then a city of about 9,000 inhabitants. In the spring of 1845 he went to live in Prescott, Canada, where he remained until 1848, when he went to Syracuse, N. Y., and was clerk in the dry goods house of Arnold Woodward. When the news of the discovery of gold in California reached the east, he was seized with the "California fever" and started with two others, (the first to leave that city for California) on the 8th day of January, 1849, reaching San Francisco on the 8th day of August, after a tedious voyage around Cape Horn, of 185 days from New York. He worked in the mines in parts of the mountains and returned home to New York in the summer of 1851. The same year he started for St. Paul, Minn., intending to make that now famous city his home but only went as far as Freeport, Ill. He there engaged in the book trade, but sold his stock in January, 1852, and started again for California. This second trip was more successful than the preceding one, for he managed to secure about $2,000 in six months. He traversed the entire mining region, but mined principally on the middle fork of the American river, and at Agua Frio, in Mariposa county. In 1857 Mr. Millard came to Whitestown, and entered eighty acres on section 3. He now owns 680 acres in the town and five blocks in the village of Ontario. This latter place was named in honor of Mr. Millards birth place, Ontario Co., N. Y. Mr. Millard was the first postmaster in the village. Was chairman of the town board one year, town treasurer two years. He carries on a large business in a general stock of goods, and has lately platted in town lots eighty acres of land in Monroe county, which is known as Millard's addition to the village of Ontario. Mr. Millard was married, in 1854, to Mary S., daughter of Jason and Johanna Canfield, of West Bloomfield, N. Y. They have two children—Henry C. who married Retta J. Carpenter, and Mittie J.

Robert Sandon, one of the most prominent business men of Ontario village, was born in England—"on whose dominion the sun never sets"—in 1835, and when nine years of age came over to this country. He was one of the first to settle in Dane Co., Wis., and in 1857 came to Whitestown. He purchased fifty acres of land on section 3, which he still owns. He has been very attentive to his landed interests, and now possesses 1,756 acres of land in Vernon county, making him probably the second largest landholder in the county. He also owns two houses and three lots in the village of Ontario, a store building and other village property, and a large stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, clothing, crockery and hardware. He enjoys a fine trade, and his many years of residence have given him the confidence of all his acquaintances. Mr. Sandon taught the first school in the village of Ontario, and in 1858 was elected clerk of the town, holding the position for sixteen years. He was also justice of the peace for ten or twelve years. Mr. Sandon was united in marriage, in 1857, soon after he came into Whitestown, to Ellen L., daughter of M. W. and Maria Steadman. They have two daughters —Nettie M. and Hattie E. Mrs. Sandon was born in 1837.

Johann Breidung came in 1861. He was born in Germany in 1825, and took passage in a sailing vessel for America in 1854. He first settled at Manistee, Mich., and there engaged in the lumber business for eight years. He then removed to Milwaukee and lived there two years. Leaving Milwaukee, he went to Waukesha county and farmed it for one year. In 1861 he came to Whitestown and purchased 160 acres of land on section 24. He now owns 150 acres and resides on section 34. Mr. Breidung was married in 1860 to Mrs. Martha Breidenstein. They have three children —Albert, Augusta and Matilda.

Samuel Walker, who located in 1862, was born in Indiana Co., Penn., April 20, 1805. In 1812 his parents removed to Washington county in his native State, and in 1814 to Jefferson

Co., Ohio. Mr. Walker subsequently resided in both Athens and Meigs counties, in Ohio, and in 1856 settled in Wellington town, Monroe Co., Wis. He there sowed the first wheat ever sowed in the town, and remained until 1861. In the latter year he enlisted as fifer in company I, in the 6th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, but was discharged in 1862 on account of disability. That same year he removed to Whitestown and entered 160 acres of land on section 1. He now owns 120 acres on the same section, all well improved. Mr. Walker was married, March 28, 1834, to Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Eleanor Sloan. Eight children were born to this union, six of whom are living—L. H., who married Miss C. Buckner, Whitestown; T. R., who married a Miss Curtis; Ellen, wife of Ezra Tuttle; Anna, wife of Thomas Sloan; Leslie and Lindley, deceased; Perry, who married Katie Dains; Joseph Adam, married Mary Adeline Lester; she having died, he afterward married De Ette L. Palmeter. Mr. Samuel Walker served an apprenticeship of six years as a blacksmith, following the business thirty-five years. He has always been a hard working man, and is at the advanced age of seventy-seven past, an able bodied man and the grand-father of twenty-one children.

Perry Walker, son of Samuel and Sarah (Sloan) Walker, was born in Meigs Co., Ohio, in 1841. He there lived until 1854, when he accompanied his parents to Hamilton, Ind., and one year later removed to the town of Wellington, Monroe Co., Wis., the family having the honor of being the first white settlers in the town. In 1862 they removed to the town of Whitestown and Mr. Walker bought forty acres of land on section 1, which he still owns. In 1865 he enlisted in the 50th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged in 1866. Mr. Walker was married in 1872 to Catharine, daughter of Hartley and Elizabeth Danes. They have two children—Marlow and Maggie.

Hiram Timerman, who is one of the most prominent business men of Ontario village, was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., in 1825. He was there reared and educated. In 1841, when quite young, he learned the wagon and carriage maker's trade and was engaged in manufacturing those vehicles until 1864. In this latter year he returned to Ontario village and opened the first wagon shop in the town of Whitestown. He carried on a successful business until 1882, when he disposed of his stock and custom to his two sons, who now operate the business. Mr. Timerman subsequently engaged in the furnituge business, owns a good stock and is enjoying a fine trade. He also owns a residence and two village lots and forty acres of land on section 2. He was married, in 1850, to Harriet Luther. They have three children—Mertin, Herman, who married Lucy Hart, and Dell, who married Jennie McFee. Mrs. Timermanwas born in 1820.

Hon. Van S. Bennett is the leading business man of the village of Rockton and one of the prominent citizens of Vernon county. He was born in Medina Co., Ohio, in 1836. His grandfather was a native of the Old Dominion and a prominent planter and slave-holder and departed this life in 1820. One son, J. V., the father of our subject, was born in Jefferson Co., Va., in 1801 and at the death of his father, came into possession of one-ninth of the estate. This interest was paid him in slaves. From the death of his father until 1828, a period of eight years, he was also overseer of the plantation and was paid in slaves for his services. In the latter year, when twenty-seven years of age, he left the old plantation for New York, taking with him all the property he then possessed—a large number of slaves. Upon arriving at his destination he gave freedom to all his dusky chattels and by so doing became in one hour a penniless man. He commenced life again by hiring to work on a farm at ten dollars per month. He came to Rockton in 1868 and died at the residence of his son in 1870. His

wife, Eliza Bennett, was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., in 1812, and became the wife of Mr. Bennett in 1834. They were the parents of five children—Van S., William H., who was captain of company B, 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and died in 1864; Isaac, who died in 1847; Virginia, who departed this life in Whitestown, in 1867, and I. J., a practicing physician of Lansing, Iowa. Van S. Bennett, the eldest child, remained in his native county until ten years of age and then accompanied his parents to Dane Co., Wis. Six years later they removed to Jefferson county and in 1854 to Kickapoo Center, Vernon county. At this latter place Mr. Bennett assisted in erecting the first saw mill in the town of Kickapoo. In 1855 he went to Richland county and for six years worked in the lumbering camps. In 1861 he enlisted in the 12th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned a 1st lieutenant and in 1862 was promoted as captain and discharged in 1864. He returned to Richland county and was elected superintendent of the schools, which position he held for two years. In 1866 he came to Whitestown and purchased the grist mill owned by Laughton Bros. In 1867 he erected the first saw mill in the village, which he still owns and operates. In 1873 he platted the village of Rockton and in 1879, in connection with C. B. Weldon, purchased a general stock of goods. In 1881 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Weldon retiring from the firm, and Mrs. Bennett has since assisted in the store duties. Mr. Bennett is the largest landed proprietor in Vernon county, owning about 2,300 acres. He was married, in 1858, to Jennie, daughter of Alfred and Rebecca Lovelace. They have one daughter—Onie. Mrs. Bennett was born in 1837. Mr. Bennett was justice of the peace thirteen years; chairman of town board four years; chairman of county board two years; represented his district in the Assembly two terms. He is the present representative to the State Senate from this district, receiving a plurality vote of 447 over both democratic and greenback candidates.

Elbert W. Sandon is the senior member of the firm of Sandon & White, dealers in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, and clothing. He was born in Dane Co., Wis., in 1849, and in 1866, when seventeen years of age, came to the town of Whitestown, where he has since resided. During the first three or four years of his residence here, he traveled during the summer months, and resided in Ontario in the winter seasons. In 1869 he formed a copartnership with his brother Robert, and the firm commenced the mercantile trade. Mr. Sandon remained in the firm until 1874, when he disposed of his interest to his brother, and established himself in his present business a little later in the same year. In 1880 he sold one half interest in the business to Cassius White, and purchased a half interest in the saw and grist mill in the village. The flouring mill contains three run of stones and has a capacity of about 700 bushels per day. The saw mill is furnished with a circular saw, and has a capacity of 8,000 feet of lumber per day. Mr. Sandon is one of the enterprising and successful business men of Vernon county, and enjoys the esteem of the whole community. He was married in 1874 to Angie, daughter of Giles and Caroline White, the first settlers in this town. Mrs. Sandon was born in 1846.

Ole Arntzen, a native of Norway, was born in 1821, and emigrated to the United States in 1865. He first settled in La Crosse, Wis., in 1866, where he remained till the fall of 1867, when he came to Whitestown and entered 160 acres of land on sections 21 and 28, which he now owns, with about 30 acres improved. Mr. Arntzen was married, in 1853, to Johanna M. Sternberg. They have six children—August M., Henry, Peter O., Rudolph, John and Arendine. August is now married to Mary Vance.

Heinrich Heinrich, a justice of the peace of the town of Whitestown, was born in Germany in 1831. He left his native land in a steam ves-

sel in the spring of 1869, and when near England, the vessel broke a propelling screw, and had to put into London for repairs. After leaving England, and when fully in mid ocean, terrific storms drove the vessel hither and thither. Their provisions almost gave out, and their coal was entirely consumed. They found it necessary to use bedsteads, benches, stools, etc., for fuel, and with great difficulty and many misgivings, reached New York harbor. Mr. Heinrich came directly to Vernon county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Whitestown town, on sections 34 and 27, where he has since resided. In 1880 he was appointed justice of the peace, and is now serving in that capacity. Mr. Heinrich was married, in 1852, to Alh Zaeger, born in 1832, and a grand-child of a native of Germany, who came to America at an early day, and fought under Washington in the Revolutionary war, but afterward returned to Germany, and there died. Six children were born to this union, one dying in Germany, and five now living—Carl D., born in 1853, studied theology for three years at the Northwestern College, Naperville, Ill.; Louise M., born in 1856, and wife of August Krugel; L. Emielie, born in 1859, and resides in New York city; A. Auguste, born in 1861, and wife of Carl Krugel, and Eliese Adelia, born in 1866, and wife of George Thomas.

Rev. W. F. Phillips, the present pastor of the Baptist Church, of the village of Ontario, Vernon Co., Wis., was born in Wales, in 1801. When quite young he became imbued with the idea of becoming a minister of the gospel and at the age of fifteen years commenced to talk on religious matters. In 1818 he entered Brecon College, in the south of Wales, to prepare for the ministry. He was graduated in 1822, and in 1842 came to these United States. His first charge was the Welsh Baptist Church, at Utica, N. Y., where he remained four years. He then removed to Freedom, in the same State, where he officiated as pastor to both the English and Welsh Baptist Churches for about nine years. He was subsequently in charge of two Baptist congregations at Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wis., for three years, and was then called to the Church at Spring Green, Sauk Co., Wis., where he ministered to the spiritual wants of three congregations until 1870. In the latter year, he came to Ontario, and has since officiated as their pastor. A glance at the foregoing will abundantly serve to show that Rev. Phillips has spent a long and useful life in the service of his Lord and Master. He is now nearing the end of this mortal life, but the years that have whitened his locks and enfeebled his steps have also added strength to his soul and a determination to die in the harness. He was united in marriage, in 1831, to Ann Jones, and seven children have been born to them, five living—Frank M. (Daniel), Jennie (Davis), William C., Lucinda (Green) and Catherine (Fox). Mrs. Phillips crossed over the dark river in 1869, and Jan. 12, 1875, Rev. Phillips married Lydia Beecher, a native of Hinesburg, Vt.

Christian Fransen is a native of Norway, where he was born in 1844, and emigrated to the United States in 1872, and first located on Coon Prairie, where he lived until 1875, when he moved to Whitestown, and purchased sixty acres of land on section 7, where he now resides. He has increased his farm to one hundred acres. Mr. Fransen was united in marriage in 1872 to Mary Christianson, by whom he has six children—Clara, Laura, Carrie, Jenette, Zena and a twin sister not yet named. Mr. Fransen has about twenty-five acres of land under cultivation.

Steen Steenson was born in Norway in 1850. His father, John Steenson, was born in Norway, in 1823, and came to the United States in 1865. He now resides in this town, on section 5. Steen Steenson came to America in 1868, and first settled on Coon Prairie, in this county, where he lived five years. In 1873 he removed to Whitestown, and purchased eighty acres of land, on section 5, which he now owns. Mr.

Steenson married Johanna Ericson, daughter of Ericson Thompson. They have two children—Albert and Amel.

V. A. Stoddard, a native of the "Badger State," was born in Dodge Co., Wis, in 1854. Soon after his birth his parents removed to Sheldon, in Monroe county, where he remained until 1875, receiving a good common school education. In the latter year, he purchased fifty acres of land on section 6, Whitestown town, and moved on to his farm the same year. Mr. Stoddard was elected clerk of Whitestown in 1882, and has been clerk of his school district for six years. He was married in 1874 to Anna E., daughter of Michael and Mary J. Dunn. They have four children—Charles D., William P., Rettie A. and Bessie A. Mr. Stoddard's father was born in New York, in 1828, and his mother in Maine, in 1833.

Hans Hanson is a native of Norway, and was born in 1828. He emigrated to the United States in 1853, in the month of August. He first settled on Coon Prairie, in Vernon county, where he remained until 1877, when he removed to Whitestown and purchased 140 acres of land from Christian Thompson on section 6, which he still owns. Mr. Hanson was married to Anna Evenson in 1860, by whom he had one child—Caroline, who died in 1866. Mr. Hanson was unfortunate in losing his wife in 1865. He again married, in 1866, Mary Larson. They have five children—Anna, Henry, Laura, Clara and Ida, all single and living at home. Neither of Mr. Hanson's parents came to the United States.

Ora Winsor, cabinet and wagon-maker, was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., where he remained until 1827, and then removed to Chautauqua county, in the same State. He there learned the carpenter trade, and in 1831 went to Canada, and worked at his trade for two years. Returning to New York, he there remained until 1847, when he came west and located in York town Green Co., Wis. In 1851, he removed to Madison, and there lived until 1855. He traveled extensively over the States of Wisconsin, Iowa and Colorado, and in 1881 located in the town of Whitestown. He now carries on a cabinet and wagon-shop, and enjoys a good run of custom. Mr. Winsor was married, in 1835, to Polly Ann Brown, who was the mother of four children—Chauncey A., who married Frank Ten Eyck, Lucy M., wife of E. Groer, Jirah R., who married Cordelia A. Bishop, and Jason C., who selected for his wife Anna Piper. Mrs. Winsor died in 1861, and Mr. Winsor was again married, in 1863, to Jane A. Wilcox, who departed this life in 1875.

Arnold Widmer, junior member of the firm of Bennett & Widmer, proprietors of Rockton flouring mills, was born in Switzerland, in 1848. He received a thorough collegiate education in the mother country, and subsequently learned the milling trade. He came to these United States in 1868, and first located in Buffalo Co., Wis. He there worked on a farm for some time, and since then has been constantly employed at his trade. In 1874 he came to Rockton, and worked in the grist mill. In January, 1883, he purchased a half interest in the flouring mill, and the business has since been conducted by the firm of Bennett & Widmer. Mr. Widmer also owns a residence and three village lots in Rockton, and eighty acres of land in the town of Stark. Mr. Widmer was married, in 1870, to Viola, daughter of David and Jutita Kellicut. They have five children—Franklin A., Bertha, Elmer L., Nettie C. and Hattie L. (twins).

A. Burlingame, a physician by profession and a farmer by occupation, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., in 1819. In 1828 he accompanied his parents to Putnam Co., Ind, and in 1836, to Milwaukee, Wis. His mother was the first married white woman in that city. Mr. Burlingame attended the public schools, and in 1847 returned to Putnam Co., Ind, where he studied medicine for four years. He first locat-

ed for practice in Geauga Co., Ohio, where he remained twelve years. He then removed to Elroy, Wis., where he practiced his profession for about eighteen years. In 1881 he came to Whitestown town, and purchased 120 acres of land on section 14. He has increased this farm to 280 acres. Mr. Burlingame was married, in 1844, to Julia Ruggles, and four children were born to them—E. C., G. W., L. F. and J B. Mrs. Burlingame died in 1858, and he was again married, in August, 1882, to Mrs. C. F. Rush.

CHAPTER LI.

HONORABLE MENTION.

It is but natural that those persons who have been honored with high official positions should be entitled to the esteem of good citizens when it is known that their advancement has been due wholly to merit. Such, in a marked degree, has been the case with those few citizens of Vernon county who have been intrusted with high official responsibilities. In this connection may, with propriety, be named Daniel B. Priest, who filled the office of collector of internal revenue of the 6th Wisconsin district; William Nelson, appointed marshal of Utah; Jeremiah M. Rusk, who was first elected bank comptroller of the State of Wisconsin, and afterward its governor, and is still in office, and William F. Terhune, the pioneer lawyer of Vernon county, and subsequently its representative in the State Assembly, and county judge.

Gen. Jeremiah M. Rusk, governor of Wisconsin, was born in Morgan Co., Ohio, in 1830, and settled in Vernon (then Bad Ax) Co., Wis., in 1853, where he has since resided. He was sheriff of the county some years, and represented his district in the Assembly in 1862. He was commissioned major of the 25th Wisconsin regiment in July of that year. After a brief service in the Minnesota Indian campaign, his regiment was ordered down the Mississippi and up the Yazoo river, and subsequently participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. After that place fell he returned to Helena, Ark., and was promoted lieutenant-colonel of his regiment, and served a short time as president of a court martial there. On the 1st of February, 1864, he took command of his regiment, joined Gen. Sherman's army, and participated in the Meridian campaign. He was complimented in general orders for the discipline he maintained on that march, and for not losing a man from straggling or inattention. He continued with Gen. Sherman, participating in all the hot fights in the Atlanta campaign, from May 1, until the battle of Jonesboro, which gave the Union forces possession of Atlanta in September. At the battle of the "Twenty-second of July," when the heroic McPherson fell, Gen. Rusk was in command at the front, and lost one-third of his men. During the battle he was once fairly cut off from his command and surrounded by soldiers armed with sabre bayonets. His sword was seized, and he was ordered to surrender, but drawing his pistol, he used it with such deadly effect that he broke through his assailants, and escaped with a slight wound in his leg and the loss of his horse, riddled with bullets. This incident is mentioned in illustration of his bravery and daring. Conduct under trying circumstances is a fair index of character; opportunities make men; we are creatures of circumstance. Distinctive traits of character or positive qualities cannot be successfully assumed for the occasion. Give a man an opportunity, and the metal he is made of, either voluntarily or involuntarily on his part, will be made to appear; the keen perception of a discriminating public will soon detect the impostor, notwithstanding he may play the game with consumate art. The public man, especially, cannot long play undetected the part of the deceiver. Gen. Rusk is a brave, true and

modest man. "Free from deceit his head, and full as free his heart."

After the battle of Jonesboro he followed Hood back into Alabama, then returned to Atlanta, and in Sherman's "march to the sea," had command of the advance of the 17th corps, having the skirmishers, pioneers, engineers and the pontoon train under his charge. In the Carolina campaign, from Beaufort Island north, he was brevetted brigadier-general for gallantry at the battle of Saukahatchie, in February. Here, to use Gen. Mower's expression, "he rode farther into hell than I would go, and he was the only man I have ever seen who would take such risks." This campaign lasted about two months. He was mustered out in June, 1865. From the May previous he had been constantly on duty in Gen. Sherman's army every day.

When his regiment was mustered out, officers and men united in expressions of regard and esteem, and he was highly commended by his superior officers for gallantry.

The following is a copy of a card that appeared in the Wisconsin *State Journal* on the separation of the officers of the 25th regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers:

A CARD.

AMERICAN HOUSE,
MADISON, WIS., JUNE 25, 1865.

We, the undersigned officers of the 25th Wisconsin Infantry, hereby take this opportunity, upon the occasion of the disbanding of our military organization, to express our esteem and profound regard for Col. J. M. Rusk. We part from him feeling in our hearts that we have bid good by to our leader, than whom there is not one more daring or gallant.

Remembering that he led us through Georgia, down to the sea, and through the swamps of the Carolinas, ever mindful of our welfare, he stood by us to the last; our prayer is that he may be rewarded by the people of the State, and that his noble deeds be not forgotten by the authorities. Never despairing but always hopeful, we remember how he performed his arduous duties during the dark days around and in front of Atlanta; and when his regiment was called into action, we always knew who was at its head. Asking nothing and receiving little, he stood by the regiment at all times, ever mindful of the interests of its officers and men.

In parting with him our acknowledgement is, he is a gentleman, a hero and soldier. His deeds do show either of these.

Thomas Harwood, *Chaplain.*
John Fitzgerald, *Lieutenant and Adjutant.*
Z. S. Swain, *Captain.*
H. D. Farquasson, *Captain.*
Charles A. Hunt, *Captain.*
Rob Roy McGregor, *Captain.*
Warren C. S. Barron, *Captain.*
Edward E. Houstain, 1*st Lieutenant.*
John R. Cannon, 1*st Lieutenant.*
D. C. Hope, *Quartermaster.*
John R. Casson, *Captain.*
William A. Gott, *Surgeon.*
E. B. Waggoner, 2*d Lieutenant.*
Pleasant S. Pritchett, 2*d Lieutenant.*
Warren G. Davis, 1*st Lieutenant.*
Mortimer E. Leonard, *Captain.*
John M. Shaw, *Captain.*
Benjamin B. Gurley, *Captain.*
Daniel M. Smalley, *Captain.*
John T. Richards, 1*st Lieutenant.*
Julius A. Parr, 1*st Lieutenant.*
Oliver M. York, 2*d Lieutenant.*

To Col. J. M. RUSK.

When Gen. Sprague was transferred to a different field, he wrote the following letter to Gen., then Col. Rusk.

HEAD QUARTERS 2D BRIGADE, 1ST DIV.,
17TH ARMY CORPS, NEAR
WASHNGTON, D. C., MAY 29, 1865.

DEAR COLONEL:—As I am ordered by the war department to a distant field, in a few hours I shall be compelled to take leave of my old command. In doing so I feel that I shall separate from very many that are very dear to me, made so by being associated with them in

common toils and danger. I cannot leave you, colonel, without expressing my thanks for that hearty support and co-operation which has ever characterized your actions and bearing in the field. You have been very much in command of your regiment, it has won a proud name, second to none that I know in our armies. You, by your faithful and untiring efforts, have contributed largely to this. You are entitled to, and I hope will receive the generous thanks of the executive and the people of your State, for your faithfulness to the troops entrusted to your care. The able manner in which you have discharged every duty in the field entitles you to the gratitude of all who love the cause in which you have served so well.

Please accept, colonel, my sincere wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

Your friend,

J. W. SPRAGUE,

Brigadier-General.

To Col. J. M. RUSK, 25th Wisconsin Volunteers.

Such was Gen. Rusk as a soldier, as is found recorded, and gathered from those who know his history.

In September, 1865, the republican State convention of Wisconsin nominated the general for bank comptroller by acclamation. He was elected in the November following by upwards of 10,000 majority. In 1867 he was again nominated and elected by the republicans of his State, and served the two terms in a most acceptable manner. During his second term the business of State banking having become nearly obsolete, by reason of the discriminations against it in the national banking law, the people passed an amendment to the State Constitution abolishing the office of bank comptroller. So that he was the last bank comptroller of Wisconsin. The following editorial appeared in the Wisconsin *State Journal* on the occasion of Gen. Rusk's final retirement from the office of bank comptroller:

"As a State officer he was thoroughly conversant with the law and rules pertaining to his department. In closing out old banks he has saved the State much money. His suggestions concerning the final settlement of all bank accounts have been valuable.

"The general is distinguished for his thoroughness in business matters, the absence of narrow prejudices in all things, a determination to do what is fair, for his excellent judgment and unswerving devotion to republican principles.

"In August, 1870, he was nominated by the republicans of the sixth congressional district in Wisconsin as their candidate for representative in Congress and in November of the same year was elected by the largest majority given by any district of the State to its representative. He is now serving his term in Congress."

Gov. Rusk's congressional career commenced on the 4th day of March, 1871. He was then brought face to face with the most eminent statesmen of both political parties, and placed on a higher plane of action than he had before occupied. Would he be found equal to the emergency? His district was "the old sixth" that had been represented so many years by the late C. C. Washburn. It was very large, embracing twenty-four counties, and covering nearly, if not quite, one-half the area of the State. It embraced all that portion of the State which was rapidly filling up with new settlers and in which new industries were being developed. It extended from the Wisconsin river on the south and east, to the Mississippi river on the west and to Lake Superior on the north. To become acquainted with and to protect all the mixed interests of his district required great labor and ceaseless care.

When he appeared in the field as a candidate for the nomination, he found the Hon. William T. Price, of Black River Falls, to be his principal competitor; the Hon. John T. Kingston, of Needah, was also in the field with quite a strong and influential following, but he was not so prominent an opponent as was Mr. Price.

The merits of the three candidates were freely and thoroughly discussed before the nominating convention was held. The voters felt as though the district that had been so well represented by Washburn, should be represented by a worthy successor. The nominating convention was held in Sparta, and after a spirited contest, during which Price, despairing of receiving the nomination himself, sought to defeat Gen. Rusk by turning as much of his strength as he could over to Kingston. Gen. Rusk bore off the honors.

The Hon. Alexander Meggett, of Eau Claire, was the democratic nominee, and both candidates canvassed the whole district, but Gen. Rusk was elected over Meggett by a majority of 5,528 votes, his own county, Vernon, giving him a majority of 1,132 votes in a total vote of 1,562. In this Congress, the XLIId, Gen. Rusk was placed on the committee on public lands and on that of the militia.

Before the next congressional election came around, the State had been re-districted under the census of 1870, and the "old sixth district" disappeared, and Vernon county was thrown into the new seventh district. But so well had he met the expectations of his constituents, and so clean was his record, that no candidate appeared in the field against him, and he was elected to the XLIIId Congress without opposition in the republican ranks. The democratic candidate was the Hon. Stephen Manton, of Eau Claire. Gen. Rusk was elected in the new seventh district, by a majority of 7,637 votes, his own county giving him a majority of 2,124, in a total vote of 3,010. This vote will illustrate the great popularity of the general at home. In the XLIIId Congress, he was chairman of the committee on Invalid Pensions, also a member of the committee on Mines and Mining. Under his chairmanship, the pension laws received careful consideration, and it can undoubtedly be said that the interests of the old soldiers of the republic were not neglected.

In 1874 he was placed in nomination for re-election, with little or no opposition. Maj. D. C. Fulton, of Hudson, was the democratic nominee. In this election, the general received a majority of 3,441 votes over Maj. Fulton, his own county giving him a majority of 1,262, in a total vote of 2,570. The XLIVth Congress was democratic, but he was placed on two committees—on Invalid Pensions and on Agriculture.

Gen. Rusk was not a public speaker in the general acceptation of the term, and consequently but few of his utterances on the floor of the house of representatives were printed. But he was a worker, and with sleepless vigilance he watched the legislation of Congress, that he might protect and enhance, in all things, the interests of his more immediate constituents, at the same time not forgetting that as a member of Congress he was called on to legislate for the whole country. His membership on the committee on Agriculture led him to turn his attention to the agricultural interests of the country, and he delivered in the house of representatives, a speech on "The tariff and its relation to agriculture," which was printed and circulated all over the country as a campaign document, in the summer of 1876.

While a member of Congress and in a great measure held responsible for all Presidential and and other federal appointments in his district, amid all the scrambles for office and emoluments, he so conducted himself as to retain the respect, not only of his constituents, but of all the people of the State. Refusing to profit by the salary-grab, which he voted against in all its stages, he covered his back pay into the treasury. He left Congress without a stain on his record.

From the day of his retirement from Congress to the day he was called on to assume the executive authority of the State, he remained quietly at home, attending to his own private business. Only once during these years did he appear in public, and that was as a delegate to the republican National convention in Chicago,

in 1880. But during this period of retirement, he was not lost sight of. Six years service in Congress, under the eye and notice of Gen. Garfield, had given the latter a clear knowledge of the real worth and abilities of Gen. Rusk, and when Garfield became President, without consulting Gen. Rusk, he nominated him to the Senate as minister to Paraguay and Uraguay, in South America, and the nomination was at once unanimously confirmed by the Senate. But Gen. Rusk declined the mission. President Garfield then tendered him the appointment of minister to Denmark, and the position of chief of the bureau of printing and engraving, both of which Gen. Rusk declined.

In the fall of 1881 he was placed in nomination for the office of governor by the republican State convention. Before the meeting of the convention, several good republicans were named as candidates for the office. It was known that the question of prohibition would enter into the contest, and the democrats hoped that the prohibitionists would draw enough republican votes to enable the democrats to elect their whole State ticket. With this end in view, the democrats encouraged the prohibitionists in every way they could. Hon. N. D. Fratt, of Racine, was placed in nomination by the democrats, T. D. Kanoure, by the prohibitionists and E. P. Allis, by the greenback party. Herculean efforts were put forth by the democrats and prohibitionists to defeat the general, but without success. He was elected by a plurality of 11,957, over Fratt. Kanoure received 13,225 votes, and Allis received 7,002 votes.

The following account of the inauguration of Gov. Rusk is from the Madison *Democrat*, Jan. 4, 1882:

Monday, the legal day for celebrating the new year, and inaugural day, too, according to law, brought grand events to the capital city. At an early hour in the morning streets and corners were crowded with people, especially boys and girls, all anxiously awaiting the arrival of troops from various sections of the State, coming to make a display on the inaugural occasion. Trains from the north were late, and as time went on the crowds continued to gather and become more eager. One was reminded of the approach of Barnum's or Forepaugh's show —the st eet parade. The day was bright, and on the sunny street corners the throng experienced no great inconvenience. By and by a man in military garb made his appearance down by Shelden's headquarters and hundreds rushed to meet him. He gave out word that three companies had arrived — two from La Crosse and one from Beaver Dam. Then did excitement run high. In due time the military column moved from East Madison towards the centre of the city. The march was up Wilson, King and Main streets. The escort was conducted by the Governor's Guard and the Lake City Guard, of Madison. When the line reached a point on Main street, between the Vilas House and the Park Hotel, slight maneuvering was indulged in, and the companies from abroad were assigned regular quarters.

Soon after 11 o'clock there was another arrival and another rally of sight-seers. The train from Milwaukee, by way of Watertown, brought to the East Madison depot a company from Milwaukee, one from Oshkosh and one from Fond du Lac, and a band from Oshkosh. Here followed another grand escort to the heart of the city, the Oshkosh band discoursing soul-inspiring music. The leader in front with a cap as big as a bushel basket, swinging his baton, engrossed the full attention of the youngsters. This was the elephant of the show. The march continued along the streets above mentioned, and the line halted where the first one did, and broke ranks after a few moments had been indulged in to the edification of a vast throng of spectators.

There was but little time to waste, as the new State officers must be at the capitol to take the oath of office at noon. Therefore it was not long before drums were heard to beat and rattle, and from all quarters gathered soldiers in fine

new uniforms. The Lake City Guard was easily distinguished by their overcoats which they kept on all through the day, with capes fastened back, showing the blood-red lining.

Eight companies formed into two battalions on Main street, along the southeast side of the capitol square—one battalion made up of the two La Crosse companies and the two capital city companies, was commanded by Lieut. Col. M. T. Moore, and the other battalion, composed of the Milwaukee company, the Beaver Dam company, the Fond du Lac and the Oshkosh companies, was under command of Col. Chandler P. Chapman, of Madison. After some maneuvering the two battalions were marched up Main street, and took position on Carroll street in front of the Park Hotel. Here the new and the old State officers were received; and then they went around the capitol park, starting down Carroll, and entering the park opposite the Vilas House. The line was made up as follows:

Arion Band.
La Crosse Light Guards.
LaCrosse Governor's Guard.
Lake City Guard.
Madison Governor's Guards.
Drum Corps.
Burchard Guards of Beaver Dam
South Side Turner Rifles.
Oshkosh Rifles.
Fond du Lac Guards.
First Carriage — Containing Gov. Smith, Gov.-elect Rusk, Lieut-Gov. Fifield, and Hon. J. C Gregory, president of the day.
Second Carriage—Containing Secretary Warner, Secretary-elect Timme, Treasurer Guenther, and Treasur-erelect McFetridge.
Third Carriage—Containing Attorney General Wilson, Attorney General-elect Frisby, State Superintendent Whitford, and State Superintendent-elect Graham.
Fourth Carriage—Containing Insurance Commissioner Spooner, Railroad Commissioner Turner, Railroad Commissioner-elect Haugen and Surgeon-General Palmer.
Fifth Carriage—Containing Hon. Philetus Sawyer, of Oshkosh, Gen. Ed. Bryant, Col. N. Smith, and Hon. F. L. Gibson,

The capitol was entered at the east door, and all proceeded at once to the assembly chamber. On the main stand were soon seen the out-going and in-going State officers, the president of the day, Hon. J. C. Gregory, the chief justice and his associates of the supreme court, and other dignitaries.

While seats were filled, the Oshkosh band gave out rare music. The exercises were opened with prayer, delivered by Rev. C. H. Richards, of Madison.

President Gregory stated the occasion and made a few appropriate and happy remarks.

Gov. William E. Smith then made what may be termed his valedictory address. He expressed himself happy in having an opportunity to acknowledge that though the two terms of his office had found his duties a pleasure, the most friendly and cordial feelings had existed between him and all with whom he had dealings. The State was in a most prosperous condition; there were plenty of moneys in the treasury, and all was serenity, so to speak. He introduced his successor with happy remarks.

Gen. Rusk arose, amid applause, and after acknowledging the responsibilities of the high office he was about to enter, returned thanks to the citizens of Madison, and others who had assembled, for the most kind, and generous reception of the newly elected officers about to assume their duties; he also thanked the National Guard, who had so generously rendered service upon the occasion, and the retiring State officers, who are entitled to the thanks of all for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have discharged their several duties. The governor commenced his address as follows:

"Selected by the people of Wisconsin as their chief executive, I have the honor, in obedience to the requirements of the constitution, of submitting to you my first annual message. I am deeply impressed with the responsibilities of the position to which I have been chosen, occupied as it has been by so many distinguished

gentleman, including my immediate predecessor, who has administered the affairs of State with marked ability and to the satisfaction of the people.

"The past year has been one of unparalleled prosperity to the Nation. United once more in the bonds of peace and harmony, with all sectional strife abated, the country has made gigantic strides ahead. Our Nation has been blessed with health, with abundant harvests, and a greater degree of prosperity than in any former year; and had it not been for the shock of the assassination of our lamented President, the year would have been one of the most successful and happy of our National life.

"I cannot refrain from speaking in this connection a few words in relation to our late beloved President, James A. Garfield; a man of broad intellect, a noble heart, a kind and generous spirit; he was pre-eminently a leader among leaders. Succeeding by his own efforts in raising himself from poverty to the highest position in the gift of the people, he had commenced a career which promised to bear full fruition of the hopes of his countrymen, when he was prostrated by the bullet of an assassin. Beloved by the people and mourned by the whole civilized world, his memory will live forever.

"The present chief magistrate, President Chester A Arthur, called to the position under these most sorrowful circumstances, has, by his wise administration of governmental affairs, merited the confidence of the country.

"Wisconsin has shared in the general prosperity of the year. Our harvests have yielded good returns and our products have found ready markets at good prices.

"Agriculture, our greatest industry, has been well rewarded, and the financial condition of this class, who contribute so much to the growth and wealth of our State, has been materially improved. Capital seeks investment at a much reduced rate of interest; our manufacturing industries have steadily and permanently increased, and many other enterprises and resources have been developed during the year.

"The laws have been faithfully and efficiently executed, and peace and tranquility have prevailed throughout the State during the year with as few exceptions as is usual."

The oath of office was administered to all the newly elected except the insurance commissioner and the railroad commissioner, whose terms have not yet begun.

The next entertainment was dress parade on Main street, which called out a good crowd.

In the evening a reception and dance took place in the assembly chamber. It was a happy time. The new governor seemed to enjoy himself hugely on the floor. He did not have the fancy modern step and shuffle, but he indulged in the regular old-fashioned "hoe-down" style, to the edification of the spectators.

Music furnished by the Oshkosh band was good.

The toilets of some of the ladies on the floor are described as follows:

Mrs. Gov. Rusk, black velvet dress, elaborately trimmed with point applique lace, blush roses.

Mrs. L. J. Rusk, plain black silk costume.

Mrs. Elmer Craig, daughter of Gov. Rusk, black velvet skirt with black silk overdress, beautifully embroidered in colors.

Miss Ida Rusk, white satin dress, silk mull, white roses, high coiffure.

Miss Mary Rusk, pink silk grenadine satin and applique lace trimmings.

Mrs. Gov. Smith, black velvet dress en traine, point lace, flowers, reception hat.

Mrs H. B. Warner, black satin de Lyon, trimmings of passementerie and guipure lace, point lace, cameo jewelry, crushed roses.

Mrs. Lieut. Gov. Fifield, black satin merveilleux dress; corals and lace.

Mrs.E. C. McFetridge, merveilleux satin dress; shirred flounces; velvet basque; duchesse lace; coral jewelry.

Mrs. H. W. Chynoweth, black surah satin dress, with jet trimmings and heliotrope flowers.

Miss Alice Frisby, wine-colored satin dress, point lace trimmings.

Mrs. Congressman Guenther, peacock blue satin dress, white Spanish lace overdress; diamonds.

Miss Ella Wheeler, beautiful white satin costume, Spanish lace trimmings.

Mrs. F. W. Oakley, light blue surah silk and silk tissue; diamond ornaments.

Mrs David Atwood, black satin dress, with point duchesse lace; cameos.

Mrs. Gen. Wilson, black satin de Lyon, with court train; black velvet basque, trimmings of jet and steel passementerie and thread lace; duchesse lace and coral jewelry.

Mrs. Senator Burrows, dress, dregs of wine, satin; cameo and point lace.

Mrs. Senator Van Schaick, black velvet en traine dress; duchesse lace and diamonds.

Miss Cary, of Beloit, white muslin and rose silk; flowers.

Miss Atwood, bronze satin merveilleux and moire brocade; turquoise and pearl jewelry.

Mrs. Dr. A. J. Ward, black silk; cameos.

Mrs. Col. W. F. Vilas, wine-colored satin dress, court train, petticoat of cream-colored satin, brocaded in flowers; cameos and pearls.

Mrs. Dr. William H. Fox, black moire dress; diamonds.

Mrs. E. P. Vilas, cream silk, corals.

Mrs. Robert McCurdy, surah skirt, with brocaded satin overdress, trimmed with passementerie and Spanish lace; duchesse lace; cameo jewelry.

Hardly had Gov. Rusk been seated in the executive chair, before he was confronted with a problem, the solution of which shows the far-reaching sagacity of the man, and the executive ability of the magistrate. On the 26th of January, 1882, he received by telegraph, the following message:

SUPERIOR JUNCTION, Jan. 26, 1882.

GOV. RUSK, Madison:

The men on this end of the Portage and Superior road are taking every thing within their reach. We are powerless to protect our property against 700 men, who have neither money nor means of subsistence. They threaten to burn houses and destroy everything here. We appeal to you for protection. Can you send relief?

WALKER, JUDD & VEASEY.

To understand the full force of this dispatch, it will be necessary to state that the Legislature, in 1874, granted to the Chicago & Northern Pacific Air Line Railway Company a large tract of land, part of the original lands granted to this State by acts of Congress, of June 3, 1856, and May 5, 1864, for the purpose of aiding the building of certain lines of railroad in this State. The lands granted to the Air Line Railroad Company were the lands that were set apart in the original grant to aid in building a road from "St. Croix river or lake" to the west end of Lake Superior and to Bayfield. The road from St. Croix river to Bayfield was being built by the North Wisconsin Railway Company, that company having received the lands applicable to the building of that road. The Air Line company was trying to build the road from the west end of Lake Superior—Superior City—southward to a point of intersection with the North Wisconsin road in Burnett county, the point of intersection being known as Superior Junction. This company had received from the Legislature, as before stated, a grant of all the lands applicable to the building of a road from Lake Superior southward to the junction with the North Wisconsin road. In January, 1882, the Air Line company had about 1,400 men working along its line, when suddenly it collapsed, being deeply in debt to sub-contractors and laborers. This collapse left 1,400 men turned loose on the community in the winter time, and many of them were far away from their homes and families. About 600

of them were at Superior Junction, and about 800 were at Superior City, or scattered along the line. This was the condition of things on the 26th of January, 1882, and which called out the telegram above quoted. It may here be stated that Walker, Judd & Veasey were heavy lumber men, located near Superior Junction and having extensive property interests there, and they were also the creditors to quite an amount of the Air Line company for supplies furnished.

To that telegram the governor at once replied, requesting Walker, Judd & Veasey to notify the men that they must do no damage, and to assure them that supplies would be sent at once and transportation furnished such of the men as wanted to leave and find work in other localities. On the same day, Walker, Judd & Veasey telegraphed back to the governor that the men refused to leave without their pay; that they would have their pay before they left or they would burn the railroad bridges and destroy the track. They also wanted the governor to send up 200 armed men to protect property and preserve order. The governor replied in substance that the men wanted bread—not bayonets! A great many telegrams came to the governor from different parties, showing a highly wrought state of feeling, and great fear that the men would resort to riotous proceedings. A bill had been introduced into the Legislature, and was then pending, to revoke the grant of lands to the Air Line company and confer it on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Company. This bill had been introduced because the Air Line company had virtually forfeited its right to the grant in not building the road within the time limited by the grant. A happy thought struck the governor. In revoking the grant to the Air Line company and conferring it on the Omaha company, the Legislature had ample constitutional power to attach the condition precedent to the grant, of full payment of the indebtedness of the Air Line company to its laborers. The Legislature was not in session then, it having adjourned over Sunday a day or two before, and consequently Gov. Rusk could not communicate with them, but keeping his own counsels, he sent a dispatch direct to the laborers, telling them that they must at all events maintain order and respect persons and property, and that the State would not permit any violation of the rights of persons or of property. He told them it was not wise for them to stay there expecting speedy payment from the Air Line company, and he advised them to appoint a committee to look after their rights, and then go away and get work as quick as they could. The governor's sensible advice was followed.

In a few days the Legislature re-convened and the governor at once sent in a special message giving a full and unvarnished history of the whole matter. He called especial attention to the fact that a great deal of expense had been incurred in feeding the men and furnishing transportation to those who went away to seek work elsewhere, and he closed his message with these words: "I also venture to suggest that if the Legislature shall transfer the grant applicable to the road from Superior Junction to the west end of Lake Superior, to any company, it would be wise, under existing circumstances, to require such company to provide funds for the immediate payment of these laborers, and to reimburse the State for any expenses incurred in taking care of these men in this emergency."

The governor's suggestion was heeded, and on the 16th of February following, he approved an act revoking the grant to the Air Line company, and conferring it on the Omaha company. This act provided that within three days after its passage the Omaha company should pay to the governor the sum of $78,000, and give such security as the governor should require, to fully indemnify and save harmless the State against all liability and expenses incurred in feeding the laborers, should the sum

of $75,000, part of the $78,000 paid to the governor, be inadequate to the full payment of the laborers, and requiring the company within thirty days after the passage of the act, to file with the secretary of State their authenticated resolution of acceptance of the grant on the terms imposed by the Legislature. The balance of the $78,000 being $3,000 was reserved to pay the expenses of the agent appointed to adjust the claims of sub-contractors and laborers. The act further required the governor to appoint an agent who should forthwith investigate and ascertain the amounts honestly and actually due for labor and supplies done and furnished prior to Jan. 20, 1882, on the Air Line road. The Omaha company at once accepted the grant on the terms proposed, paid over to the governor the $78,000 and gave the security the act required. The governor appointed Judge Butt, of Vernon county, agent to adjust the claims, who at once entered upon that duty, and in a few months the claims were all adjusted and paid.

The manner in which the people of the State appreciated the action of Gov. Rusk in the matter is well illustrated in the following extract of a speech delivered by the Hon. John Hinton, of Milwaukee, at a mass meeting held at Bay View on the 21st of February, 1883. He said: "He is an earnest, unflinching friend of the workingman. When several hundred laborers up north here, who had not received pay for months, and were almost starving for the want of food, and demanded that they have their pay or provisions to live on, and when Gov. Rusk was telegraphed to send 200 bayonets to put them down, he telegraphed back: 'I cannot send bayonets—it is bread they want.' He ordered them fed, and more than that, he notified the Legislature that if they did pass that land grant bill, unless they made provision to pay those men the wages they had honestly earned and which was their due, he would not sign the act. He is the friend of the laboring man, he has shown it always, and he proved it by his executive power as governor."

This brief sketch of the matter gives but a very faint idea of the real situation of things along the line of the road, and of all that Gov. Rusk had to deal with in bringing about such a happy solution of the trouble.

As executive of the State, Gov. Rusk has felt called on several times to interpose his veto to bills that had passed both houses of the Legislature.

The first bill that he vetoed was one conferring on John Glover and others, their heirs and assigns, the right to erect, maintain and keep a dam across the Totogalicans creek, in the county of Bayfield, Wis. This act authorized them to flood lands, to charge tolls for the passage of logs and lumber through the dam, etc., etc. The act conferred these privileges on Glover, his associates and assigns, for the term of fifteen years.

The governor vetoed the bill on the grounds of expediency alone, and he began his message thus:

"I feel constrained by a sense of public duty to withhold from this bill executive approval. This action upon my part has been reluctantly taken, for the reason that I discover no constitutional objection to the bill in any of its provisions, and I am fully mindful of the delicacy involved in placing my individual judgment in opposition to the judgment of the Legislature, upon grounds going to the expediency of its action. But as my objections to this bill pertains with equal force to a class of measures rapidly increasing in number, and aimed at what, in my judgment, is a growing evil in legislation. I have thought it fairly within the line of executive duty to call the attention of the Legislature to the subject in this connection.

"The constitution of the State provides that coporation without banking powers or privileges may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special act, except for municipal purposes, and in cases where, in the judg-

ment of the Legislature, the objects of the corporation cannot be attained under general laws." The constitution reserves to the Legislature the right to alter, modify and repeal all charters granted by the Legislature or created under general laws, made permanent to the foregoing constitutional provision.

But for years the Legislature had been granting to persons the right to dam the lumbering streams of the State, to charge tolls for the passage of logs and lumber on through the dams, to flood lands, and conferring on those persons corporate powers and franchises for a number of years, without reserving the right to alter, modify or repeal those franchises and corporate powers, and the governor of the State had been signing all such acts, until, as Gov. Rusk said in his veto message, "a large number of the lumbering streams in the State are being given over by this means to the control of individuals."

The veto message was quite lengthy, but it completely covered the whole ground, and so convincing was its logic, that it was unanimously sustained, and it effectually stopped the passage of bills conferring corporate powers and franchises on individuals, without any reservation of the constitutional right of the Legislature to alter, modify or repeal.

Another veto which shows with what keenness the governor looks into all actions of the Legislature in the passage of bills, and the closeness with which he scrutinizes that action in the light of the constitution of the State, is the one he sent to the Senate on the 12th of March, 1883, to a bill originating in the Senate, entitled "An act to legalize the action of certain county boards of supervisors, relating to the salaries of certain county officers."

In 1882, there was, and ever since the organization of the State government there had been, a statute authorizing and requiring the board of supervisors of the several counties in the State to fix the salaries of the several county officers; and as the law stood, in 1882, the supervisors were required to fix the salaries for a given term, one year before the commencement of that term. The counties, or at least some of them in which an election for county officers was to be held in November, 1882, the term of office to commence on the first Monday in January, 1883, fixed the salaries of their respective officers for that term, at the annual meeting in November, 1882, one week after the election was held, in clear violation of the law, and then appealed to the Legislature to legalize their acts. And this thing had been going on to a greater or less extent since the organization of the State government, and it is believed the governors of the State had invariably approved the bills. Gov. Rusk, in his veto of the bill in question, raised several points, but it is unnecessary to notice them here. The following extract from his message will show clearly one point raised, and his manner of dealing with it:

"The bill declares to be legal and valid the action of such of the county boards as voted at their annual meetings in November, 1882, to raise the salaries of certain county officers for the years 1883 and 1884. The language of the bill creates the irresistible inference that a portion of the county boards of the State voted at the annual meetings in November, 1882, to raise the salaries of certain county officers in their respective counties for 1883 and 1884. It also very clearly implies the invalidity of such action, as the necessity for this proposed curative legislation rests solely on such invalidity. The power of the county boards of the State to fix salaries of county officers was, in 1882, and is now, regulated by section 694 of the Revised Statutes, which is as follows:

'(Section 694). The county boards at their annual meeting in November, shall fix the amount of salary which shall be received by every county officer, including county judge, who is to be elected in the county during the next ensuing year, and is entitled by law to receive a salary payable out of the county treasury; and the salary as fixed shall not be increased or diminished during his said term of office. All

salaries shall be paid out of the county treasury, quarter-yearly, at the end of each quarter. If the county board of any county shall fail to establish the salary of any county officer as herein provided, such officer shall receive the same annual salary as that received by his immediate predecessor. This section shall not apply to any particular county whose salaries to its officers have been specially provided and fixed by law.'

"As to officers to be elected in the county during the next ensuing year, the action fixing the salaries, whether by lowering or raising, would be clearly within the power of the boards and would require no legislative care.

"I feel warranted, therefore, in assuming that the action sought to be legalized by this bill was invalid for some violation of section 694, either in fixing the salaries of county officers elected in 1882, or in raising the salaries of officers then in office. Can the Legislature constitutionally legalize the action of a portion of the county boards of the State, in so fixing the salaries, in violation of section 694? The supreme court seems clearly to have answered this question in the negative in *Rooney* vs *the Supervisors of Milwaukee County*, 40. Wis. 23."

The governor made another point on the constitutionality of the bill, holding it to be in conflict with section 23, of article 4 of the constitution, which provides that "the Legislature shall establish but one system of town and county government, which shall be as nearly uniform as possible."

On this point the governor said: "It would be a signal breach of the uniformity of the organic system of county government required by the constitution, that a board of supervisors of one county should be permitted or required to disregard the wholesome principle binding all the other counties of the State. It would be a strange uniformity, which for grave ends of public policy should absolutely place the compensation of county officers beyond control in some counties, and subject it, in violation of such policy, to control in other counties. It is quite apparent that an act of the Legislature of 1882, in terms authorizing county boards of certain counties to raise the salaries of officers elected that year, or those in office, would have been unconstitutional as violating the uniformity of county government."

The messages which Gov. Rusk has annualy transmitted to the State assembly are characteristic of the man—plain and simple in their wording, clear and concise in tone, and honest and straightforward in pointing out what he considers to be the best methods of meeting the present wants of this rapidly increasing population, and providing for the exigencies which may arise in the fostering and development of the agricultural, mercantile and industrial interests of the State. They bear unmistakable evidence of a close observance into the necessary requirements of the different departments of the State government and a painstaking effort to promote the moral and intellectual growth of the whole people.

Gov. Rusk has yet a year to sit in the chair of State, and it is useless to speculate as to what his future may be. He may be called to further and higher honors when he vacates the gubernatorial chair. And it may not be amiss, in this connection, to produce here a few of the compliments that have dropped from the press and other sources, called out by "a record so clear in his high office."

Said a leading and influential democratic politician of this State, in the fall of 1883 : "Gov. Rusk has made a most excellent governor for Wisconsin. His unassuming, impartial, honest policy is such as the people like, and Gov. Rusk's admirers in the State have wonderfully increased in numbers since he seated himself in the gubernatorial chair."

After the death of Postmaster-General Howe, the name of Gov. Rusk was mentioned in connection with other names, as one who would make a worthy successor. This called out from one of the prominent papers of the State, the fol-

lowing paragraph: "Among the names spoken of in the Washington dispatches for the vacant position of postmaster general, is that of Gov. J. M. Rusk. While all Wisconsin people would be glad to know that the abilities of their brave soldier and most excellent governor were thus recognized by President Arthur, they would be sorry indeed to have him vacate the executive chair at Madison. Of all the governors Wisconsin has ever had, none of them ever held the respect and good will of all parties as has Gov. Rusk. If the President concludes to call Gov. Rusk away from his present position, the people of this great commonwealth will, of course, approve his choice, knowing full well that what will be lost to the State, will be gained by the Nation."

The following extract from a paper independent in politics, probably gives as good a description of the man and the governor, as anything that has been written or said:

"The present occupant of the executive chair in Wisconsin, is a man who tips the beam quick at 250 pounds, and has a heart in him in proportion to the size of his body. There is not a more genial, companionable or kinder hearted man in the State, or in the country, or in the world, and, if he is at all afflicted with that contemptible disease known as political or official big head, none has yet been able to discover it. It is the unanimous opinion of those who visit the executive office, or meet the governor about the capitol, that he is the exact type of man that it is proper to make into governors. In the expression of opinions as well as in movements, he is cool and deliberate, evidently does not believe in rushing things, but does not hesitate to shoulder the responsibility when the time to act has come. No one will ever find Gov. Rusk a coward, physically, morally or politically. He does not jump to conclusions quickly, but, when he decides what to do, is able to give substantial reasons therefor. In fact, he is a safe man, even in the emergency where other men fly to pieces with excitement. Gov. Rusk is a large man, with a kindly face, has an abundance of hair, and full beard, pretty well silvered, and in his demeanor lacking of that self-satisfied, peculiarly offensive dignity so often seen among official luminaries."

The parents of Gov. Rusk, Daniel Rusk and Jane Fakner, were married in 1811. Their children were: John, Anna, James, Ruel, Daniel, Elizabeth, Jane, Samuel, Allen and Jeremiah M. Daniel Rusk died in 1845, and Jane (Fakner) Rusk died Nov. 25, 1876, aged eighty-six years eleven months and nineteen days. Jeremiah McLain Rusk, was married April 5, 1849, to Mary Martin, in Perry Co., Ohio. She died in January, 1856. Their children were Charity Ariel, Lycurgus James and Mary Jane, deceased. J. M. Rusk was again married, Nov. 18, 1856, in Bad Ax (now Vernon) county, Wis., to Elizabeth Johnson. Their children were: Alonzo, deceased; Ida May, Mary Elizabeth and Blaine Dahiel.

William F. Terhune was born at Northumberland, Saratoga Co., N. Y., July 10, 1821. His ancestors came from Holland and France, and were Huguenots. He is of mixed English, Dutch and French descent. His great-grandfather, at the time of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, surrendered a lucrative office under the British crown rather than become the instrument to enforce unjust laws and illegal taxation. His grandfather was a soldier in the war on the side of the colonies, and his own father was an adjutant at Sackett's Harbor in the War of 1812.

Wm. F. Terhune was the son of a farmer, in moderate circumstances, and until the age of seventeen years was employed upon the farm in summer and in attendance upon a district school in winter. Having by that time acquired a good common school education, and being ambitious to make further progress, he commenced the business of teaching, which he pursued alternately with attendance on some convenient academy. He attended at different times, Troy Conference Academy, at West Poult-

ney, and the academy at Castleton, in Vermont, and the academies at Schuylerville and Amsterdam, in New York. During his academic course he was chosen to deliver three valedictory addresses. He entered Union College, New York, in 1843, but the death of his mother, and the consequent derangement of his father's affairs, prevented him from fully completing a collegiate course. He resumed the business of teaching, and in 1846 commenced studying law in the office of Hon. P. H. Sylvester, at Coxsackie, N. Y. Here his success as a teacher, and his pen as an educationist, rapidly brought him into public notice, so that in 1846 he was chosen county superintendent of schools for Greene Co., N. Y., which enabled him to complete his law studies, and he was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the State of New York, at the September term thereof, held at Albany in 1848. He commenced practice at Athens, opposite the city of Hudson, and intermarried with Margaret C. Vandenberg, by whom he has had nine children, seven of whom are now living —Julia, Aurealia L., Leonard B., Blanche, now the wife of Thomas German; Ethie, a resident of Coxsackie, N. Y.; Frederic and La Torce.

In 1850 Mr. Terhune was employed, by the marshal of the southern district of New York, to superintend the taking of the census of that year, and to correct and revise the returns of the assistant marshals. In 1851 he resolved to seek his fortune in the west, and on the 5th of August of that year landed at where Victory now is, and thence came to Viroqua, where he permanently located, and became one of the early settlers of Vernon (then Bad Ax) county. The county was then just organized, and he was very soon appointed deputy clerk of the court, and deputy clerk of the board of supervisors. Since then he has been honored by the confidence of his fellow citizens, who have chosen him at different times member of the assembly, register of deeds, district attorney, and county judge; beside he has filled the less responsible offices of court commissioner and chairman of the board of supervisors. He has ever been identified with the interests of the county, and was chiefly instrumental in procuring the name of the county to be changed from the barbarous one of "Bad Ax" to that of Vernon. Heis also the founder of the Vernon cemetery which he caused to be laid out upon his own land in the year 1867, to supply a much needed public want, and which he conveyed to the trustees of the village of Viroqua in 1877.

Mr. Terhune is the pioneer lawyer of Vernon county. Unlike many of the profession,he wrote a beautiful recording hand which embellishes many of the early records of the county. He was an excellent judge of the law, and excelled in drafting original papers. Of late years he has been afflicted with partial blindness and a nervo-spinal disease, the latter of which, caused by a fall in his boyhood, embarrassed him, even in the vigor of manhood, and as age advanced has had the effect to weaken his powers of application to business, and seems to handicap his executive ability. He and his amiable lady are the only two persons surviving and remaining within the limits of the village, who were adult residents in 1851.

CHAPTER LII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

POSTOFFICES AND POSTMASTERS IN BAD AX COUNTY IN 1856 and 1859.

Viroqua, S. C. Lincoln; Springville Edmund Strang; Bad Ax, Jacob Higgins; Coon Prairie, Cyrus F. Gillett; Harmony, John Raywalt; Warner's Landing, John Warner; Newville, B. S. Moore; Victory, J. C. Berry; De Soto, S. D. Powers; Retreat, Wm. P. Clark; Kickapoo, Robert Wilson; New Brookville, Abram Styles; Avalanche, R. P. Gillett; Weister, Justus Smith.

In 1859 the postoffices had increased to twenty-seven with postmasters as follows:

Bad Ax, N. Cady; Bergen, P. A. Bouley; Bloomingdale, C. A. Hunt; Breckenridge, John T. Binkerman; Carvosso, Michael Kellar; Coon Prairie, John Benson; Debello, James Strait; De Soto, S. D. Powers; Goole, J. C. Cooper; Harmony, J. M. McLees; Hillsborough, Daniel Busbee; Hockly, H. Landram; Kickapoo, H. Cameron; Mt. Tabor, J. C. Tabor; New Brookville, A. Stiles; Newville, J. Harris; New Salem, W. R. Reese; Ontario, O. H. Millard; Readstown, Hugh McClaran; Retreat, Wm. P. Clark; Romance, P. N. Shumway; Star, Thomas De Jean; Springville, J. R. Savage; Victory, J. C. Berry; Viroqua (c. h.), S. C. Lincoln; Warner's Landing, John Warner; Weister, Justus Smith.

POSTOFFICES AND POSTMASTERS IN VERNON COUNTY IN 1883.

Avalanche, August Sweger; Bergen, Nathaniel Cummings; Bloomingdale, E. E. Rustad; Burr, L. E. Eastman; Chaseburg, J. W. Hoyt; Coon Valley, H. Hanson; Debello, Elias Kigley; Dell, D. W. Adams; De Soto, J. H. Rogers; Esofea, Christian Schriver; Genoa, Mathew Monti; Goole, Giles M. Kile; Hillsborough, I. J. Shear; Kickapoo, L. Kellogg; La Farge, S. W. Green; Liberty, Allen Rusk; Liberty Pole, K. Peterson; Lovass, Christ. Olson; Mt. Tabor, J. J. Malort; Newry, C. Christopherson; Newton, Levi Noble; Ontario, T. L. De Lap; Otter Vale, E. Marshall; Purdy, Ole Gauper; Readstown, E. Bliss; Red Mound, J. Miller; Rest, Hulda B. Stetson; Retreat, J. L. Davis: Rockton, Van S. Bennett; Romance, William Fox; Springville, H. Amundson; Star, C. W. Lawton; Stoddard, Peter Wodvynsky; Sugar Grove, L. C. Drake; Trippville, D. N. Tripp; Valley, D. Lawton; Victory, A. Mueller; Viroqua, R. S. McMichael; Westby, N. H. Nelson; West Prairie, H. Bellows.

CHANGES IN VIROQUA.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, July 13, 1870.]

When the writer of this article settled in Viroqua, on the 10th of September, 1853, there were but five of the present buildings erected, viz.: The house now occupied by Father Nichols, the one occupied by H. A. Vess, the one occupied by R. S. McMichael, and the one occupied by Mr. Isham. All the others have been built since that time.

The only inhabitants of the village at that time (1853) now (1870) living here are Judge Terhune and wife and their son Leonard, who was then a small baby; Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Lincoln and their daughter Edith, who was then just beginning to run alone; Mrs. Skippens, then the wife of of the late Rufus Dunlap; Warren W. Dunlap, L. R. Decker, Thomas I.

Decker, Mrs. Pennell, then the wife of the late Daniel Parkinson, and two adopted daughters, who are now the wives of John Norris and C. P. Richardson; Father Nichols, L. W. and M. C. Nichols, and O. C. Weeden. All the other present inhabitants of the village have moved in or been born here since that day.

There were several huge oak trees standing in Main street that were gradually cut down and removed. The hickory trees now (1870) standing in the court house square were crooked saplings, and I went out one day and trimmed them with my knife, and straightened those that were growing crooked. The Lombardy poplar now growing in the court house yard was planted there by Charles Waters, at my request. Mr. Waters is now (1870) one of the oldest settlers in the county, and that tree will be a monument to his memory.

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS IN VERNON COUNTY IN 1870.

Bergen, 147; Christiana, 206; Clinton, 159; Coon, 129; Forest, 118; Franklin, 243; Genoa, 130; Greenwood, 130; Hamburg, 210; Harmony, 142; Hillsborough, 178; Jefferson, 208; Kickapoo, 171; Liberty, 76; Stark, 156; Sterling, 208; Union, 101; Viroqua, 390; Webster, 156; Wheatland, 148; Whitestown, 134.

PERSONAL.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, March 23, 1870]

Gen. J. M. Rusk, familiarly known in this county as "Jerry Rusk," is at home again, after an absence of four years. On his arrival in the village, a number of his friends paid their respects to him and bade him welcome home, to show him that he had not been forgotten. He will live in this place (Viroqua) for the future. Since his retirement from the office of bank comptroller he has been the recipient of many words of cheer from his friends, and a large number of the journals of the State have given him flattering endorsements. Among these, we name The State *Journal*, The Sparta *Eagle*, The La Crosse *Republican*, The La Crosse *Leader* and the Sparta *Herald*. Such friendly words are remembered and heartily appreciated by him. And, in the meantime, his star still seems to be in the ascendant.

MARRIED.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, Nov. 30, 1870.]

In the town of Hamburg, Nov. 21, 1870, by Rev. A. C. Preus, Anders H. Bakken to Petra H. Korstad. In the town of Portland, Monroe county, Nov. 5, 1870, by the same, Martin Evenson to Marie E ricksen. In the town of Viroqua, Nov. 19, 1870, by the same, Lars Christianson Ergenas to Guro I. Burlockken. In the same town, by the same, Nov. 16, 1870, Tosten Evenson to Bertha Marie Amundsdatter. In the same town, by the same, Oct. 20, 1870, Neri Halvorsen to Anne Amundsdatter.

MRS. R. C. BIERCE.

The many friends of Mrs. R. C. Bierce will learn with sorrow that her death from paralysis occurred in Menomonie, on the 25th of July.

On Sunday evening, the 19th, she was sitting in Church by her husband's side, when, without any warning, she was stricken down, lingering until the next Saturday, when, at twenty minutes past 4 o'clock in the afternoon, she passed away without a struggle.

A faithful wife, a devoted mother, an unswerving friend and a steadfast Christian, she has gone to her rest. However peaceful the death of the righteous may be, it leaves an aching void in the hearts of the survivors; but the hopes of a glorious immortality beyond the grave, assuages all sorrow; and that sorrow may be even turned to joy when we reflect that "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." —*Vernon County Censor*, Aug. 5, 1874.

HENRY NICHOLS.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, July 7, 1875.]

Our venerable and esteemed citizen, Mr. Henry Nichols, was a member of a company of trappers operating in the Yellowstone country nearly sixty years ago. The company endured many hardships aud faced perils at every step.

Many of Mr. Nichol's companions died from sickness; some were killed by Indians, and the survivors narrowly escaped. Mr. Nichols is eighty-five years old. He probably saw the waters of the Yellowstone at an earlier period than any other person now living. His early life was an adventurous and eventful one, and a narrative of it would make a very interesting and readable volume.

HIRAM DE LAP.

Died at his residence near Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 20, 1875, Hiram De Lap, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

Mr. De Lap was, for many years, a resident of Vernon and Crawford Co's., Wis. His many friends will be glad to hear something respecting his last moments. His aged companion writes that he was in his usual health on Friday morning, the 20th inst. (August, 1875), ate his breakfast, fed his pigs and chickens, and visited a neighbor. About 1 o'clock he got up from his pallet where he was lying, went to the water bucket, took a drink of water, went back, lay down and expired without a struggle or a groan.

GEORGE S. MCCORMICK.

POPULATION OF VERNON COUNTY,

ACCORDING TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL CENSUS.

State Census,	1855	4,823
Federal "	1860	11,007
State "	1865	13,644
Federal "	1870	18,673
State "	1875	21,524
Federal "	1880	23,255

POPULATION OF VERNON COUNTY,

IN 1880, ACCORDING TO SEX, NATIVITY AND COLOR.

Males	12,149
Females	11,086
Native	17,515
Foreign	5,720
White	23,127
Colored	128

It may be said, therefore, that, of the inhabitants of Vernon county, three-fourths are native-born, while one-fourth are from the old country. Of the foreign-born, much the larger number are Norwegians.

POPULATION OF VERNON COUNTY, IN 1870, BY TOWNS.

Bergen	795
Christiana	1,133
Coon	708
Clinton	823
Forest	600
Franklin	1,231
Genoa	683
Greenwood	744
Hamburg	1,208
Harmony	781
Hillsborough	985
Jefferson	1,108
Kickapoo	902
Liberty	414
Stark	756
Sterling	1,059
Union	507
Viroqua	1,988
Webster	812
Whitestown	637
Wheatland	697

CENSUS OF VERNON COUNTY, FOR 1880, BY TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

The villages marked with an asterisk (*), are unincorporated, and their population is given only approximately, as their limits cannot be sharply defined.

Bergen		1,014
Christiana		1,305
Clinton, including Bloomingdale village		1,008
*Bloomingdale village	96	
Coon		983
Forest		889
Franklin		1,319
Genoa, including Genoa village		919
*Genoa village	150	
Greenwood		1,050
Hamburg, including Chaseburg village		1 156
*Chaseburg village	125	
Harmony, including Newton village		1,062
*Newton village	41	
Hillsborough including Hillsborough village		1,218
*Hillsborough village	195	
Jefferson, including Springville village		1,284
*Springville village	187	
Kickapoo		1 233
Liberty		543
Stark		954
Sterling		1,382
Union		741

Viroqua, including Viroqua village,		2,368
*Viroqua village,	762	
Webster, including Avalanche village,		1,060
*Avalanche village,	80	
Wheatland, including the following villages:		917
*Victory village,	114	
*Wheatland village,	301	
Whitestown, including the following villages		880
*Ontario village,	179	
*Rockton village,	39	

HON. HENRY CHASE.

[From the Vernon County *Censor*, March 29, 1871.]

We learn with pain of the death of Hon. Henry Chase, a prominent citizen of this county. He settled on the spot where Chaseburg (named after him) is now situated, eight years ago, and began at once his labors to improve the place. He was indefatigable in his labors; and joined to his energy a spirit of open and honest dealing, which won for him the respect and friendship of all. He represented his district in the Assembly in the winter of 1868, discharging his duties well.

Last year he was taken dangerously sick of dropsy, but obtained relief, which, however, proved but temporary. Being again attacked the past winter, he went to Sparta to try the effects of the Turkish bath. This, also, failed to afford relief, and he died there last week in the thirty-ninth year of his age. He was born in Vermont and was one of ten children, all of whom, except one, visited him at Chaseburg last fall. His is the second death in the family of ten.

MONUMENT ROCK.*

[From the Western *Times*, Oct. 25, [1856.]

A monument indeed! A monument of nature! How long, old rock, hast thou stood there in all thy stern grandeur? How long hast thou looked down on the inhabitants of this earth, who have passed thee in all their pomp and pride? Had it been possible, would not thy stern, old features have relaxed into a smile of contempt at their self-conceit? How long, old rock, hast thou withstood the scorching suns of summer and the keen blasts of winter? Who can tell thy age? Art thou not as old as the "everlasting hills?" When the Creator first divided the sea from the dry land, thou heardst the command to come forth, and thou obeyed—to show the wonderful wisdom and power of thy Maker. And long years before the feet of white men pressed the prairie sod, thou wast witness to the midnight revelries of the forest. History has recorded scenes of savage barbarity almost incredible, but hadst thou the power of speech, couldst thou not tell to the awe-struck traveler, who has, perhaps, lingered to gaze upon thy moss-covered sides, a tale, compared with which the mightiest efforts of the pen would be fables? Stand thou there still, old rock, till the end of the creation in which thy existence first commenced. Let no impious hand dare touch thee to profane thy majestic form! Let vain man look up to thee and learn their own nothingness and inferiority!

* A noted natural curiosity on section 36, in the town of Franklin.

JAMES R. SAVAGE.

]From the Vernon County *Censor*, Aug. 30, 1871.]

Died in Springville, Aug. 27, 1871, Mr. James R. Savage, age forty-five years.

Mr. Savage was an old resident of this county, having moved here upwards of twenty years ago. He was widely known and respected, and many of his friends and neighbors attended his funeral on Tuesday of this week. Thus another of the old and respected residents of the county is no more. His loss will be felt in many places, where he has been wont to be a prominent actor.

"THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST."

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

Election, November 3, 1857.

For Governor:
Alexander W. Randall, of Milwaukee.

For Lieutenant Governor:
Carl Shurz, of Jefferson.

For Secretary of State:
John L. V. Thomas, of Rock.

For Treasurer:
Samuel D. Hastings, of Trempealeau.

For Attorney General:
Mortimer M. Jackson, of Iowa.

For Bank Comptroller:
John P. McGregor, of Columbia.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction
John G. McMynn, of Racine.

For State Prison Commissioner
E. M. McGraw, of Sheboygan.

For Assemblyman:
William C. McMichael.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY TICKET.

For Sheriff:
Anson K. Burrell.

For Treasurer:
John Gardner.

For Clerk of Circuit Court:
William C. McMichael.

For Clerk of the County Board:
William F. White.

For Register of Deeds:
Daniel P. Allison.

For District Attorney:
Royal C. Bierce.

For County Surveyor:
Greene Spurrier.

For Coroner:
Jeremiah M. Rusk.

In displaying the above ticket at the head of its columns, on the 14th of October, 1857, the editor of the *Western Times* has a word to say why each candidate on the county ticket should be elected. "Jeremiah M. Rusk," says he, "the candidate for coroner, is now sheriff of the county. He is landlord at the North Star, and everybody knows that they'll get good fare when they call on him." Jeremiah M. Rusk was elected coroner.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET. 1881.

For Governor:
Jeremiah M. Rusk, of Vernon.

For Lieutenant-Governor:
Samuel S. Fifield, of Ashland.

For Secretary of State:
E. G. Timme, of Kenosha.

For Treasurer:
E. C. McFetridge, of Dodge.

For Attorney General:
L. F. Frisby, of Washington.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction:
Robert Graham, of Winnebago.

For Railroad Commissioner:
N. P. Haugen, of Pierce.

For Commissioner of Insurance:
Phil L. Spooner, of Dane.

In placing the above ticket at the head of the columns of the Vernon County *Censor*, the editor says:

"The nominee of the convention for governor, Gen. J. M. Rusk, has been a resident of Vernon county for thirty years and therefore needs no introduction to our people nor to the people of the State, for his record of public life is a part of the record of the State. He served the State two terms as bank comptroller, his district three terms in Congress and his country three years in the army. In every one of these positions he made an honorable record and won the confidence of his people. In Congress he was the trusted friend of Garfield, Blaine and other great leaders, and no man possessed their friendship and confidence in a greater degree.

"Working his way to position from the humblest walks of life, through his own exertions and energy, Gen. Rusk knows the wants of the people. He had not the advantages of a college education, but he had a fund of common sense, which, with his common school education, enabled him to accomplish for his constituents while in Congress much that men with more learning could not; and not one measure for the benefit of his constituents failed at his hands.

"That Gen. Rusk will prove a strong head for the ticket none doubt. He enjoys a large personal acquaintance throughout the State and all know that his administration will be conducted in the interests of the people. His previous public record warrants this assertion; and all who know him know that his highest ambition will be to serve the people of the glorious Badger State ably, faithfully and honorably.

"The republicans of Vernon county—Gen. Rusk's neighbors and friends—send greeting to their brethren throughout the State and assure them that old Vernon will roll up for the gallant standard bearer such a majority as no man ever received before in this county."

Jeremiah M. Rusk was elected governor.

THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL, GUBERNATIONAL AND CONGRESSIONAL VOTE IN VERNON COUNTY.

TOWNS.	PRESIDENT, 1880.		GOVERNOR 1881.			CONGRESS, 1882.		
	Garfield	Hancock	Rusk	Fratt	Kanouse	Republican	Democrat	Prohibition
Coon	173	13	108	17	....	53	38	....
Forest	119	38	68	8	9	45	34	33
Franklin	133	83	125	25	....	103	89	..
Genoa	90	63	66	9	4	56	75	3
Greenwood	78	81	65	12	....	44	75	....
Hamburg	126	45	89	21	9	89	46	4
Harmony	171	5	114	8	19	93	35	9
Hillsborough	162	91	148	16	3	102	120	2
Jefferson	126	30	84	24	11	94	72	20
Kickapoo	162	114	69	70	11	111	68	10
Liberty	52	37	45	13	...	59	16	....
Stark	91	19	57	4	4	72	31	11
Sterling	167	44	109	9	5	88	61	6
Union	49	60	41	....	2	31	53	2
Viroqua	328	106	319	38	7	421	29	21
Webster	86	38	58	22	14	88	43	8
Wheatland	137	43	72	17	22	91	31	15
Whitestown	121	33	121	6	15	103	18	27
Total	2774	1014	2022	358	153	042	1046	189

APPENDIX

ABSTRACT OF LAWS.

ELECTORS AND GENERAL ELECTION.

SECTION 12. Every male person of the age of twenty-one years or upward, belonging to either of the following classes, who shall have resided in the State for one year next preceding any election, shall be deemed a qualified elector at such election.

1. Citizens of the United States.

2. Persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization.

3. Persons of Indian blood who have once been declared by law of Congress to become citizens of the United States, any subsequent law of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding.

4. Civilized persons of Indian descent, not members of any tribe. Every person convicted of bribery shall be excluded from the right of suffrage unless restored to civil rights, and no person who shall have made or become directly or indirectly in any bet or wager depending upon the result of any election at which he shall offer to vote shall be permitted to vote at such election.

SECTION 13. No elector shall vote except in the town, ward, village or election district in which he actually resides.

SECTION 14. The general election prescribed in the constitution shall be held in the several towns, wards, villages and election districts on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November in each year, at which time there shall be chosen such representatives in Congress, electors of President and Vice-President, State officers and county officers as are by law to be elected in such year.

SECTION 15. All elections shall be held in each town at the place where the last town meeting was held, or at such other place as shall be ordered at such last meeting, or as shall have been ordered by the supervisors when they established more than one election poll, except that the first election after the organization shall be held at the place directed in the act or proceedings by which it was organized; and all elections in villages constituting separate election districts, and in the wards of cities, shall be held at the place to be ordered by the trustees of such village, or the common council of such city, at least ten days before such election, unless a different provision is made in the act incorporating such village or city.

SECTION 16. Whenever it shall become impossible or inconvenient to hold an election at the place designated therefor, the board of inspectors, after having assembled at or as near as practicable to such place, and before receiving any votes, may adjourn to the nearest convenient place for holding the election, and at such adjourned place shall forthwith proceed with the election. Upon adjourning any election as hereinbefore provided, the board of inspectors shall cause proclamation thereof to be made, and shall station a constable or some other proper person at the place where the adjournment was made, to notify all electors ar-

riving at such place of adjournment, and the place to which it was made.

SECTION 20. A registry of electors shall annually be made.

1. In each ward or election district of every city which, at the last previous census, had a population of 3,000 or more.

2. In each ward or election district of every incorporated village in which, by law, separate elections are held; which village, at the last preceding census, had a population of 1500 or more.

3. In every town containing a village which, at said census, had a population of 1,500 or more, in which village separate general elections are not by law required to be held.

4. In all towns, any part of which shall have been embraced in any part of any city or village in which a registration by this chapter is required.

Such registration shall be made in the manner provided by this chapter. The persons authorized by law to act as inspector of election in each of such towns, wards or election districts shall constitute the boards of registry therefor.

SECTION 21. The said inspectors shall have their first meeting on Tuesday, four weeks preceding each general election at the place where said election is to be held; and in election districts in which there were polled at the previous general election 300 votes or less, they shall sit for one day and in districts in which there were more than 300 votes polled, they shall have power to sit two days, if necessary, for the purpose of making such list. They shall meet at 9 oclock in the forenoon and hold their meetings open until 8 o'clock in the evening of each day, during which they shall so sit. The clerks appointed by law to act as clerks of election shall act as clerks of the board of registry on the election only. The proceedings shall be open and all electors of the district shall be entitled to be heard in relation to corrections or additions to said registry. They shall have the same powers to preserve order which inspectors of election have on election days and in towns vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same manner that vacancies are filled at elections.

SECTION 22. The said inspectors at their first meeting, and before doing any business, shall severally take and subscribe the oath of inspectors at a general election and said inspectors shall at their first meeting make a registry of all the electors of their respective districts, placing thereon the full names, alphabetically arranged according to surnames in one column, and in another the residence by number and name of street or other location, if none. If any electors residence is at any hotel or public boarding house, the name of the hotel or boarding house shall be stated in the registry. They shall put thereon the names of all persons residing in their election districts, appearing on the poll list kept at the last preceding general election and are authorized to take therefor such poll list from the office where kept, omitting such as have died or removed from the district and adding the names of all other persons known to them to be electors in such district. In case of the formation of a new election district since the last preceding general election, the said board therein may make such registry from the best means at their command and may, if necessary, procure therefor certified copies of the last poll list. They shall complete said registry as far as practicable at their first meeting and shall make four copies thereof and certify the original and each copy to be a true list of the electors in their district so far as the same are known to them. One of said copies shall be immediately posted in a conspicuous place in the room in which their meeting was held and be accessible to any elector for examination or making copies thereof, and one copy shall be retained by each inspector for revision and correction at the second meeting. They shall, within two days after said first meeting, file the original registry

made by them, and said poll list in the office of the proper town, city or village clerk and may, in their discretion, cause ten printed copies of said registry to be made and posted in ten of the most public places of said election districts or may publish the same in a newspaper at an expense not exceeding one cent for each name.

SECTION 23. The inspectors shall hold their second meeting at the same place designated for holding elections on the Tuesday two weeks preceding the election. They shall meet at 9 o'clock in the forenoon. In election districts having less than 300 voters, as shown by the preliminary registry, the board shall complete the registry on the same day; but if there are more than that number of voters they shall sit two days. They shall remain in session until 8 o'clock in the evening. They shall revise and correct the registry, first by erasing the name of any person who shall be proved to their satisfaction by the oaths of two electors of the district to to be not entitled to vote therein at the next ensuing election, unless such person shall appear and if challenged, shall answer the questions and take the oath thereinafter provided; secondly, by entering thereon the names of every elector entitled to vote in the district at the next election who shall appear before the board and require it, and state his place of residence, giving street and number, if numbered, or location, as hereinbefore provided, if challenged answer the questions, and take the oath provided in case of challenge at an election; but if any person shall refuse to answer all such questions or to take such oath, his name shall not be registered. Any person who is not twenty-one years of age before the date when the register is required to be corrected but will be if he lives until the day of election, shall have his name put on the registry if he be otherwise qualified to be an elector. Any elector who did not vote at the previous general election shall be entitled to be registered either at the preliminary or final registration of electors by appearing before the board of registration of his election district and establishing his right to be registered, or, instead of personal appearance, he may make his application to be registered to the board in writing. Such application shall state the name and period of continuous residence in the election district and place of residence therein, giving the number and street of the applicant, and, in case the person making the application is of foreign birth, he shall state when he came to the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and the time and place of declaring his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and that he is entitled to vote at the election. Upon receiving such application, the board of registration shall register the name of such applicant, if it appears to the board that the applicant is, by his statement, entitled to vote. Such statement shall be made under oath, and shall be preserved by the board and be filed in the office of the village or city clerk, as the case may be. All city and village clerks shall keep blanks for making the application for registration, as provided by this section. The form shall be prescribed by the secretary of State. Every man named in this section shall be subject to the same punishment for any false statement or other offense in respect thereto as is provided in case of such false statement or other offense by an elector offering to vote at an election. After such registry shall have been fully completed on the day above mentioned, no name shall be added thereto by any person or upon any pretense. Within three days after the second meeting the said board shall cause four copies of the registry to be made, each of which shall be certified by them to be a correct registry of the electors of their district, one of which shall be kept by each inspector for use on election day, and one shall forthwith be filed in the office of the proper town, city or village clerk. All registry shall at all times be open to public inspection where deposited, without charge.

SECTION 24. On election day the inspectors shall designate two of their number at the opening of the polls who shall check the names of every elector voting in such district whose name is on the registry. No vote shall be received at any general election, of any ward or election district defined in section 20, if the name of the person offering to vote be not on said registry, made at the second meeting as aforesaid, except as hereinafter provided; but in case any one shall, after the last day for completing such registry, and before such election, become a qualified voter of the district, he shall have the same right to vote therein at such election as if his name had been duly registered, provided he shall, at the time he offers to vote, deliver to the inspectors his affidavit in which he shall state the facts, showing that he has, since the completion of such registry, become a qualified elector of such district, and facts showing that he was not such elector on the day such registry was completed, and shall also deliver to such inspectors the affidavit of two freeholders, electors in such election district, corroborating all material statements in his affidavit. In case any person who was a voter at the last previous general election shall not be registered, such person shall be entitled to vote on making affidavit that he was entitled to vote at the previous election, and that he has not become disqualified by reason of removal from the election district or otherwise, since that election, which affidavit shall also be corroborated by the affidavit of two freeholders, as is provided for other non-registered voters. No one freeholder shall be competent to make at any one election corroborating affidavits for more than three voters. All of said affidavits shall be sworn to before some officer authorized by the laws of this State to take depositions. The inspectors shall keep a list of the names and residence of the electors voting whose names are not on said completed registry, and attach said list to the registry and return it, together with such affidavits, to the proper town, city or village clerk. No compensation shall be paid or received for taking or certifying any such affidavits. On the day following the election, one of said poll list and one copy of the registry so kept and checked shall be attached together and filed in the office of the proper town, and the other of said poll lists and copy of the registry so kept shall be returned to the county clerk with the returns of the election. Such inspectors shall give notice by advertisement in a newspaper printed in the city, village or town where such registration was made, of the registry, and shall include in such notice all additions to and omissions from the preliminary list, and shall also state where the election is to be held. In case there be no newspaper printed in such city, village or town, such notice shall be given by posting copies thereof in three or more public places in each ward or election district in such city, village or town. For publication of such notice in any such newspaper the publisher thereof shall be entitled to the same compensation per folio as is prescribed for publishing other legal notices

COMMON SCHOOLS.

SECTION 413. The information of any school district shall be by written order of the town board, describing the territory embraced in the same to be filed with the town clerk within twenty days after the making thereof. The supervisors shall deliver to a taxable inhabitant their notice thereof in writing, describing its boundaries and appointing a time and place for the first district meeting, and shall therein direct such inhabitants to notify every qualified voter of the district, either personally or by leaving a written notice at his place of residence, of the time and place of such meeting at least five days before the time appointed therefor, and said inhabitant shall notify the voters of such district accordingly and endorse thereon a return, containing the names of all persons thus notified, and said notice and re-

turns shall be recorded as a part of the record of the first meeting in such district.

SECTION 414. In case such notice shall not be given, or the inhabitants of a district neglect or refuse to assemble and form a district when so notified, or in case any school district having been formed or organized or afterwards be disorganized, so that no competent authority shall exist therein to call a special district meeting, in the manner hereinafter provided, notice shall be given by the town board and served in the manner prescribed in the preceding section. Whenever a district meeting shall be called as prescribed in this and the preceding section, it shall be the duty of the electors of the district to assemble at the time and place so directed.

SECTION 415. Whenever it is necessary to form a district from two or more adjoining towns, the town boards of such towns shall meet together and form such district by their written order, describing the territory embraced in such district, signed by at least two of the supervisors of each town, and shall file one such order with the town clerk of each town and deliver the notice of formation to a taxable inhabitant of each district, and cause the same to be served and returned in the time and manner hereinbefore described; and any such district may be altered only by the joint actions of the town boards of such towns in the same manner that other districts are altered.

SECTION 416. Every school district shall be deemed duly organized when any two of the officers elected at the first legal meeting thereof shall have consented to serve in the office to which they have been respectively elected by a written acceptance thereof filed with the clerk of the first meeting and recorded in the minutes thereof; and every school district shall be considered as duly organized after it shall have exercised the franchises and privileges of a district for the term of two years.

SECTION 425. The annual meeting of all school districts in which graded schools of two or more departments are taught, shall be held on the second Monday of July, and of all other school districts on the last Monday of September in the year. The hour of such meeting shall be 7 o'clock in the afternoon, unless otherwise provided by a vote of the district, duly recorded at the last previous annual meeting; but at any annual meeting a majority of the electors present may determine that the annual meeting of such districts shall be held on the last Monday of August instead of the last Monday of September. Said determination to take effect when a copy of the proceedings of said annual meeting in reference to such change shall have been filed with the town clerk in which the school house of such district is situated and to remain in force until rescinded by a like vote of the electors of such district.

SECTION 426. The clerk shall give at least six days' previous notice of every annual district meeting, by posting notices thereof in four or more public places in the district, one of which shall be affixed to the outer door of the school house, if there be one in the district, and he shall give like notices for every adjourned district meeting when such meeting shall have been adjourned for more than one month; but no annual meeting shall be deemed legal for want of due notice, unless it shall appear that the omission to give such notice was willful and fraudulent.

SECTION 427. Special district meeting may be called by the clerk, or, in his absence, by the directors or treasurer, or written request of five legal voters of the district, in the manner prescribed for calling an annual meeting; and the electors when lawfully assembled at a special meeting, shall have power to transact the same business as at the first and each annual meeting, except the election of officers. The business to be transacted at any special meeting shall be particularly specified in the notices calling the same, and said notices shall be posted six full days prior to the meeting. No tax or loan or debt shall be voted at a special

meeting, unless three-fourths of the legal voters shall have been notified, either personally or by written notice left at their place of business, stating the time and place and objects of the meeting, and specifying the amount proposed to be voted, at least six days before the time appointed therefor.

SECTION 428. Every person shall be entitled to vote in any school district meeting who is qualified to vote at a general election, for State and county officers, and who is a resident of such school district.

ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF DISTRICT TAXES.

SECTION 469. All school district taxes, unless otherwise specially provided by law, shall be assessed on the same kind of property as taxes for town and county purposes; and all personal property which, on account of its location or the residence of its owner, is taxable in the town, shall, if such locality or residence be in the school district, be likewise taxable for school district purposes.

BORROWING MONEY.

SECTION 474. Whenever, upon any unusual exigency, any school district shall, before the annual meeting, vote a special tax to be collected with the next levy, the district may, by vote, authorize the district board to borrow for a period not exceeding one year, a sum not exceeding the amount of such tax, and by such vote set apart such tax when collected to repay such loan, and thereupon the district board may borrow such money of any person on such terms, and execute and deliver to the lender such obligations therefor and such security for the repayment, including a mortgage or pledge of any real or personal property of the district, subject to the directions contained in the vote of the district as may be agreed upon and not prohibited by law.

SECTION 498. Every district clerk who shall willfully neglect to make the annual report for his district as required by law, shall be required to pay the whole amount of money lost by such district in consequence of his neglect, which shall be recovered in an action in the name of and for the use of the district.

SECTION 499. Every town clerk who shall neglect or refuse to make and deliver to the county superintendent his annual report, as required in this chapter within the time limited therefor, shall be liable, on his official bond, to pay the town the amount which such town or any school district therein shall lose by such neglect or refusal, with interest thereon; and every county superintendent who shall neglect or refuse to make the report required of him by this chapter to the State superintendent shall be liable to pay to each town the amount which such town or any school district therein shall lose by such neglect or refusal, with interest thereon, to be recovered in either case by an action prosecuted by the town treasurer in the name of the town.

SECTION 503. Every member of a district board in any school district in this State in which a list of text books have been adopted according to law, who shall, within three years from the date of such adoption or thereafter, without the consent of the State superintendent, order a change of text books in such district, shall forfeit the sum of fifty dollars.

SECTION 513. Every woman twenty-one years of age and upward may be elected or appointed as director, treasurer or clerk of the school district, director or secretary of the town board under the township system, member of the board of education in cities, or county superintendent.

SECTION 560. In reckoning school months twenty days shall constitute a month and one hundred days five months.

ASSESSMENT OF TAXES.

SECTION 1035. The terms "real property," "real estate" and "land," when used in this title, shall include not only the land itself, but all buildings, fixtures, improvements, rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

SECTION 1036. The term "personal property," as used in this title, shall be construed to

mean and include toll-bridges, saw-logs, timber and lumber, either upon land or afloat, steamboats, ships and other vessels, whether at home or abroad, buildings upon leased lands, if such buildings have not been included in the assessment of the land on which they are erected; ferry boats, including the franchise for running the same; all debts due from insolvent debtors, whether an account, note, contract, bond, mortgage or other security, or whether such debts are due or to become due, and all goods, wares, merchandise, chattels, money and effects of any nature or description having any real or marketable value and not included in the term "real property," as above defined.

SECTION 1037. The improvements of all land situated in this State, which shall have been entered under the provision of the act of Congress entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," approved May 20, 1862, and which shall be actually occupied and improved by the person so entering the same, or his heirs, shall be subject to taxation and such improvement shall be assessed as personal property. All taxes levied thereon shall be collected out of the personal property of the occupants of such land and in no other manner.

SECTION 1038. The property in this described is exempt from taxation, to-wit:

1. That owned exclusively by the United States or by this State, but no loans contracted to be sold by the State shall be exempt.

2. That owned exclusively by any county, city, village, town or school; but lands purchased by counties at tax sales shall be exempt only in the cases provided in section 1191.

3. Personal property owned by any religious, scientific, literary or benevolent association used exclusively for the purpose of such association, and the real property if not leased or not otherwise used for pecuniary profit, necessary for the location and convenience of the buildings of such association, embracing the same, not exceeding ten acres; and the lands reserved for grounds of a chartered college or university not exceeding forty acres, and parsonages, whether of local churches or districts, and whether occupied by the pastor permanently or rented for his benefit. The occasional leasing of such buildings for schools, public lectures or concerts or the leasing of such parsonages shall not render them liable to taxation.

4. Personal property owned exclusively by the State or any county agricultural society, and the lands used by any such society exclusively for fair grounds.

5. Fire engines and other implements used for extinguishing fires, owned or used by any organized fire company, and the buildings and necessary grounds connected therewith, owned by such company and used exclusively for its proper purpose.

6. The property of Indians who are not citizens, except lands held by them for purchasers.

7. Lands used exclusively for public burial grounds, and tombs and monuments to the dead therein.

8. Pensions receivable from the United States.

9. Stock in any corporation in this State required to pay tax upon its property in the same manner as individuals.

10. So much of the debts due or to become due to any persons as shall equal the amount of *bona fide* and unconditional debts by him owing.

11. Wearing apparel, family portraits and libraries, kitchen furniture and growing crops.

12. Provisions and fuel provided by the head of a family to sustain its members for six months; but no person paying board shall be deemed a member of a family.

13. All the personal property of all insurance companies that now or shall be organized or doing business in this State.

14. The track, right of way, depot grounds, buildings, machine shops, rolling stock and other property necessarily used in operating

any railroad in this State belonging to any railroad company, including pontoon, pile and pontoon railroads, and shall henceforth remain exempt from taxation for any purpose, except that the same shall be subject to special assessments for local improvements in cities and villages, and all lands owned or claimed by such railroad company, not adjoining the track of such company, shall be subject to all taxes. The provision of this sub-division shall not apply to any railroad that now is or shall be operated by horse power, whether now or hereafter constructed in any village or city.

15. The property, except real estate, of all companies which are or shall be engaged in the business of telegraphing in this State.

16. The real estate of the Home of the Friendless in the city of Milwaukee, not exceeding one lot in amount, is exempt so long as the same shall continue to be used as such home.

17. All property of any corporation or association formed under the laws of this State for the encouragement of industry by agricultural and industrial fairs, by exhibitions, which shall be necessary for fair grounds, while used exclusively for such fairs and exhibitions, provided the quantity of lands so exempt shall not exceed forty acres.

18. Such tree-belts as are or may be planted and maintained in compliance with chapter sixty-six of one of these statutes.

SECTION 1191. Real property, upon which the county holds any certificates of tax sale, shall continue liable to taxation and to sale for unpaid taxes, and the county shall be the exclusive purchaser at the sale; but when a tax deed shall be issued to the county, and it shall hold tax certificates of sale unredeemed on the same property for two successive years subsequent to the date of the sale on which such deed shall issue, including certificates of sale made prior to the passage of these statutes, such property shall thereafter be exempt from taxation until the same is sold by the county. The county clerk shall annually, before the first day of June, furnish to the assessors of each town a list of the lands in such town exempt under this section. Nothing in this section shall be so construed as to apply to lands owned by minors, married women, widowed women, idiots or insane persons.

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

SECTION 1089. The town treasurer of each town, on the receipt of the tax roll for the current year, shall forthwith post notices in three or four public places in such town that the tax roll for such town is in his hands for collection, and that the taxes charged them therein are subject to payment at his office at any time prior to the first day of January in such year; and after the said first day of January he shall proceed to collect the tax charged in such roll and remaining unpaid, and for that purpose shall call at least once on the person taxed or at any place of his usual residence, if within the town, and demand payment of the tax charged to him on such roll.

SECTION 1090. On all taxes paid or tendered at the office of such treasurer prior to said first day of January, he shall remit all of the five per cent. collection fees, except so much thereof as he is authorized by law to have for his fees upon taxes so paid.

SECTION 1091. Town orders shall be receivable for taxes in the town where issued, and shall be allowed the town treasurer on settlement of town taxes, and county orders and jurors' certificates shall be receivable for taxes in the county where issued and shall be allowed such treasurer on settlement of county taxes with the county treasurer, but no town treasurer shall receive town orders in payment for taxes to a larger amount than the town taxes included in his assessment roll exclusive of all taxes for school purposes, nor county orders and jurors' certificates to a greater amount than the county tax included therein.

SECTION 1097. In case any person shall refuse or neglect to pay the tax imposed upon him, the town treasurer shall levy the same by

distress and sale of any goods and chattels belonging to such person, wherever the same may be found within his town; and if a sufficient amount of such property cannot be found in such town, the town treasurer may levy the same by distress and sale of the goods and chattels belonging to such person, wherever the same may be found in the county or in any adjoining counties.

SECTION 1098. The town treasurer shall give public notice of the time and place of such sale, at least six days previous thereto, by advertisement, containing a description of the property to be sold, to be posted up in three public places in the town where the sale is to be made. The sale shall be at public auction in the day-time, and the property sold shall be present; such property may be released by the payment of the tax and charges for which the same is liable to be sold; if the purchase money on such sale shall not be paid at such time as the treasurer may require, he may again, in his discretion, expose such property for sale, or sue, in his name of office, the purchaser for the purchase money, and recover the same with costs and ten per centum damages.

SECTION 1099. If the property so levied upon shall be sold for more than the amount of tax and costs, the surplus shall be returned to the owner thereof; and if it cannot be sold for want of bidders, the treasurer shall return a statement of the fact and return the property to the person from whose possession he took the same; and the tax, if unsatisfied, shall be collected in the same manner as if no levy had been made.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

SECTION 1223. The supervisors of the several towns shall have the care and supervision of the highways and bridges therein, and it shall be their duty:

1. To give directions for repairing the highways and bridges within their respective towns, and cause to be removed all obstacles therefrom.

2. To cause such of the roads used as highways as have been laid out but not sufficiently described, and such as have been lawfully laid out and used as such up to the then present time, but not fully and sufficently recorded to be ascertained, described and entered of record in the town clerks office.

3. To cause bridges which are or may be erected over streams intersecting highways to be kept in repair.

4. To divide their respective towns into so many road districts as they shall judge convenient and specify every such division in writing under their hands, to be recorded in the office of the town clerk; but no such division shall be made within ten days next preceding the annual town meeting.

5. To assign to each of the said road districts such of the inhabitants liable to pay tax on highways as they think proper, having regard to the nearness of residence as much as practicable.

6. To require the overseer of highways from time to time and as often as they shall deem necessary, to perform any of the duties required of them by law.

7. To assess the highway taxes in their respective towns in each year, as provided by law.

8. To lay out and establish upon actual surveys, as hereinafter provided, such new roads in their respective towns as they may deem necessary and proper; to discontinue such roads as shall appear to them to have become unnecessary, and to widen or alter such roads when they shall deem it necessary for public convenience and perform all other duties respecting highways and bridges directed by this chapter.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

SECTION 1548. The town boards, village boards and common councils of the respective towns, villages and cities, may grant license to such persons as they may deem proper, to keep groceries, saloons or other places within their respective towns, villages or cities, for the sale

in quantities of less than one gallon of strong, spirituous, malt, ardent or intoxicating liquors, to be drank on the premises; and in like manner may grant licenses for the sale in any quantity of such liquor not to be drank on the premises. The sum to be paid for such license for the sale of such liquor to be drank on the premises shall not be less than $25 nor more than $150; and for the sale of such liquors not to be drank on the premises shall be not less than $10 nor more than $40.

SECTION 1549. Every applicant for such license shall, before delivery thereof, file with such town, village or city clerk a bond to the State in the sum of $500, with at least two sureties, to be approved by the authorities granting the license, who shall each justify in double its amount over and above their debts and liabilities and exemptions, and be freeholders and residents of the county, conditioned that the applicant during the continuance of his license will keep and maintain an orderly and well regulated house; that he will permit no gambling with cards, dice or any device or implements for that purpose, within his premises or any other house, yard or shed appertaining thereto; that he will not sell or give away any intoxicating liquors to any minor, having good reason to believe him to be such, unless upon the written order of the parents or guardian of such minor, or to persons intoxicated or bordering upon intoxication, or to habitual drunkards; and that he will pay all damages that may be recovered by any person, and that he will observe and obey all orders of such supervisors, trustees or aldermen, or any of them, made pursuant to law. In case of the breach of the condition of any such bond, an action may be brought thereon in the name of the State of Wisconsin, and judgment shall be entered against the principals and sureties therein named for the full penalty thereof; and execution may issue thereupon by order of the court therefor to satisfy any judgment that may be recovered against the principal named in said bond, by reason of any breach in the conditions thereof, or for any penalties of forfeitures incurred under this chapter. If more than one judgment shall have been recovered, the court, in its discretion, may apply the proceeds of said bond toward the satisfaction of said several judgments, in whole or in part, in such manner as it may see fit.

SECTION 1550. If any person shall vend, sell, deal or traffic in or for the purpose of evading this chapter, give away, any spirituous, malt, ardent or intoxicating liquors or drinks, in any quantity whatever, without first having obtained license therefor, according to the provisions of this chapter, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $40, besides the costs of suit, or, in lieu of such fine, by imprisonment in the county jail of the proper county, not to exceed sixty days nor less than twenty days; and, in case of punishment by fine as above provided, such person shall, unless the fine and costs be paid forthwith, be committed to the county jail of the proper county, until such fine and costs are paid, or until discharged by due course of law; and, in case of a second or any subsequent conviction of the same person during any one year, punishment may be by both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 1551. Upon complaint made to any justice of the peace by any person that he knows or has good reason to believe, that an offense against this chapter, or any violation thereof, has been committed, he shall examine the complainant on oath, and he shall reduce such complaint to writing and cause the same to be subscribed by the person complaining. And if it shall appear to such justice that there is reasonable cause to believe that such offense has been committed, he shall immediately issue his warrant reciting therein the substance of such complaint and requiring the officer to whom such warrant shall be directed

forthwith to arrest the accused and bring him before such justice, to be dealt with according to law; and the same warrant may require the officer to summon such persons as shall be therein named to appear at the trial to give evidence.

SECTION 1552. The district attorney of the proper county shall, on notice given to him by the justice of the peace before whom any such complaint shall be made, attend the trial before such justice and conduct the same on behalf of the State.

SECTION 1553. Every supervisor, trustee, alderman and justice of the peace, police officer, marshal, deputy marshal and constable of any town, village or city who shall know or be creditably informed that any offense has been committed against the provisions of this chapter, shall make complaint against the person so offending within their respective towns, villages or cities to a proper justice of the peace therein, and for every neglect or refusal so to do, every such officer shall forfeit $25, and the treasurer of such town, village or city shall prosecute therefor.

SECTION 1557. Any keeper of any saloon, shop or place of any name whatsoever for the sale of strong, spirituous or malt liquors to be drank on the premises in any quantity less than one gallon, who shall sell, vend, or in way deal or traffic in or for the purpose of evading this chapter, give away any spirituous, ardent or malt liquors or drinks in any quantity whatsoever to or with a minor, having good reason to believe him to be such, or to a person intoxicated or bordering on a state of intoxication, or to any other prohibited person before mentioned shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor; nor shall any person sell or in any way deal or traffic in, or, for the purpose of evading this chapter, give away any spirituous, ardent, intoxicating or malt liquors, or drinks in any quantity within one mile of either of the hospitals for the insane; and any person who shall so sell or give away any such liquors or drinks shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES.

SECTION 1675. All notes in writing made and signed by any person or for any corporation, and all certificates of the deposit of money issued by any person or corporation, whereby he or it shall promise to pay to any person or order, or unto the bearer any sum of money as therein mentioned, shall be due and payable as therein expressed, and shall have the same effect and shall be negotiable in like manner as inland bills of exchange, according to the custom of merchants. But no order drawn upon or accepted by the treasurer of any county, town, city, village or school district, whether drawn by any officer thereof or any other person, and no obligation or instrument made by such corporation or any officer thereof, unless expressly authorized by law to be made negotiable, shall be, or shall be deemed to be, negotiable according to the custom of merchants, in whatever form they may be drawn or made.

SECTION 1680. On all bills of exchange payable at sight, or at future day certain, within this State, and all negotiable promissory notes, orders and drafts payable at a future day certain, within this State, in which there is not an expressed stipulation to the contrary, grace should be allowed in like manner as it is allowed by the custom of merchants on foreign bills of exchange, payable at the expiration of a certain period after date or sight. The provisions of this section shall not extend to any bill of exchange, note or draft payable on demand.

SECTION 1684. All notes, drafts, bills of exchange or other negotiable paper, maturing on Sunday or upon any legal holiday shall be due and payable upon the next preceding secular day.

HOURS OF LABOR.

SECTION 1728. In all manufactories, workshops and other places used for mechanical or manufacturing purposes, the time of labor of children under eighteen years of age and of women em-

ployed therein, shall not exceed eight hours in one day; and any employer, stockholder, director, officer, overseer, clerk or foreman who shall compel any woman or any child to labor exceeding eight hours in any one day, or who shall permit any child under fourteen years of age to labor more than ten hours in any one day in any such place, if he shall have control over such children sufficient to prevent it, or who shall employ at manual labor any child under twelve years of age in any factory or workshop where more than three persons are employed, or who shall employ any child of twelve and under fourteen years of age in any such factory or workshop for more than seven months in any one year shall forfeit not less than $5 nor more than $50 for each such offense.

SECTION 1729. In all engagements to labor in any manufacturing or mechanical business where there is no express contract to the contrary, a day's work shall consist of eight hours and all engagements or contracts for labor in such cases shall be construed; but this shall not apply to any contract for labor by the week month or year.

FORM OF CONVEYANCES.

SECTION 2207. A deed of quit claim and release of the form in common use of the form hereinafter provided, shall be sufficient to pass all the estate which the grantor could lawfully convey by deed of bargain and sale.

SECTION 2208. Conveyances of land may be in substantially the following form:

WARRANTY DEED.

A. B., grantor of —— Co., Wis., hereby conveys and warrants to C. D., grantee, of —— Co., Wis., for the sum of —— dollars, the following tract of land in —— county.

(Here describe the premises.)

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor this —— day of ——, 18—.

In the presence of

—— ——} —— ——[SEAL]
—— ——} —— ——[SEAL]

QUIT CLAIM DEED.

A. B., grantor, of —— Co., Wis., hereby quitclaims to C. D., grantee, of —— Co., Wis., for the sum of —— dollars, the following tract of land —— county.

(Here describe the premises.)

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor, this —— day of ——, 18—.

In the presence of

—— ——} —— ——[SEAL.]
—— ——} —— ——[SEAL.]

Such deeds, when executed and acknowledged as required by law, when of the first of the above forms, have the effect of a conveyance in fee simple to the grantee, his heirs and assigns of the premises therein named, together with all the appurtenances, rights and privileges thereto belonging, with a covenant from the grantor, his heirs and personal representatives, that he is lawfully seized of the premises; has good right to convey the same; that he guarantees the grantee, his heirs and assigns in the quiet possession thereof; that the same are free from all incumbrances, and that the grantor, his heirs and personal representatives will forever warrant and defend the title and possession thereof in the grantee, his heirs and assigns against all lawful claims whatsoever. Any exceptions to such covenants may be briefly inserted in such deed, following the description of the land; and when in the second of the above forms, shall have the effect of a conveyance in fee simple to the grantee, his heirs and assigns, of all the right, title, interest and estate of the grantor either in possession or expectancy, in and to the premises therein described, and all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging.

MORTGAGES.

SECTION 2209. A mortgage may be substantially in the following form:

A. B., mortgagor, of —— Co., Wis., hereby mortgages to C. D., mortgagee, of —— Co., Wis., for the sum of —— dollars, the following tract of land in —— county.

(Here describe the premises.)

The mortgage is given to secure the following indebtedness:

(Here state amount or amounts and form of indebtedness, whether on note, bond or otherwise, time or times when due, rate of interest, by and to whom payable, etc.)

The mortgagor agrees to pay all taxes and assessments on said premises, and the sum of —— dollars attorney's fees in case of foreclosure thereof.

Witness the hand and seal of said mortgagor this——day of ——, 18—.

In presence of

—— ——— } —— ———[SEAL.]
—— ——— } —— ———[SEAL.]

When executed and acknowledged according to law shall have the effect of a conveyance of the land therein described, together with all the rights, privileges, appurtenances thereunto belonging in pledge to the mortgagee, his heirs, assigns and legal representatives for the payment of the indebtedness therein set forth, with covenant from the mortgagor that all taxes and assessments levied and assessed upon the land described during the continuance of the mortgage shall be paid previous to the day appointed by law for the sale of lands for taxes, as fully as the forms of mortgage now and heretofore in common use in this State, and may be foreclosed in the same manner and with the same effect, upon any default being made in any of the conditions thereof as to payment of either principal, interest or taxes.

ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE.

SECTION 2210. An assignment of a mortgage substantially in the following form:

For value received I, A. B., of ——, Wis, hereby assign to C. D, of ——, Wis., the within mortgage (or a certain mortgage executed to ——, by E. F. and wife, of —— Co., Wis., the — day of ——, 18—, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of —— Co., Wis., in Vol. —, of mortgages, on page —), together with the —— and indebtedness therein mentioned.

Witness my hand and seal, this — day of —— 18—.

In the presence of

—— ——— } A. B. [SEAL.]
—— ——— }

Shall be sufficient to vest in the assignee for all purposes all the rights of the mortgagee under the mortgage, and the amount of the indebtedness due thereon at the date of assignment such assignment when indorsed upon the original mortgage shall not require an acknowledgment in order to entitle the same to be recorded.

TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY BY DESCENT.

SECTION 2270. When any person shall die, seized of any lands, tenements or hereditaments or any right thereto, or entitled to any interest therein in fee simple, or for the life of another, not having lawfully devised the same, they shall descend subject to his debts, except as provided in the next section, in the manner following:

1. In equal shares to his children and to the lawful issue of any deceased children, by right of representation; and if there be no child of the intestate living at his death, his estate shall descend to all his other lineal descendants; and if all the said descendants are in the same degree of kindred to the intestate, they shall share the estate equally, otherwise they shall take according to the right of representation.

2. If he shall leave no lawful issue, to his widow; if he shall leave no such issue or widow, to his parents, if living; and if either shall not be living, the survivor shall inherit his said estate. If a woman shall die leaving no issue, her estate shall descend to her husband, if she shall have one at the time of her decease, and if she leave, surviving her, neither issue nor husband, to her parents, if living, and if either shall not be living the survivor shall inherit her said estate.

3. If he shall leave no lawful issue, nor widow, nor father nor mother, his estate shall descend in equal shares to his brothers and sis-

ters and to the children of any deceased brother or sister, by right of representation.

4. If the intestate shall leave no lawful issue, widow, father, mother, brother nor sister, his estate shall descend to his next of kin, in equal degree, except that when there are two or more collateral kindred in equal degree, but claiming through different ancestors, those who claim through the nearest ancestor shall be preferred to those claiming through an ancestor more remote; provided, however,

5. If any person die leaving several children or leaving one child and the issue of one or more other children, and any such surviving child shall die under age, and not having been married, all the estate that came to the deceased child, by inheritance from such deceased parent, shall descend in equal shares to the other children of the same parent and to the issue of any such other children who shall have died, by right of representation.

6. If, at the death of such child, who shall die under age, and not having been married, all the other children of his said parent shall also be dead, and any of them shall have left issue, the estate that came to said child by inheritance from his said parent, shall descend to all the issue of the other children of the same parent; and if all the said issue are in the same degree of kindred to said child, they shall share the said estate equally; otherwise they shall take according to the right of representation.

7. If the intestate shall have no widow nor kindred, his estate shall escheat to the State, and be added to the capital of the school fund.

SECTION 2271. When the owner of the homestead shall die, not having lawfully devised the same, such homestead shall descend free of all judgments and claims against such deceased owner or his estate, except mortgages lawfully executed thereon, and laborers' and mechanics' liens, in the manner following:

1. If he shall have no lawful issue, to his widow.

2. If he shall leave a widow and issue, to his widow during her widowhood, and, upon her marriage or death, to his heirs according to the next preceding section.

3. If he shall leave issue and no widow, to such issue according to the preceding section.

4. If he shall leave no issue or widow, such homestead shall descend under the next preceding section, subject to lawful liens thereon.

WILLS.

SECTION 2277. Every person of full age, and any married woman of the age of eighteen years and upward, being of sound mind, seized in his or her own right of any lands, or of any right thereto, or entitled to any interest therein, descendible to his or her heirs, may devise and dispose of the same by last will and testament in writing; and all such estate not disposed of by will, shall descend as the estate of any intestate, being chargable, in both cases, with the payment of all his or her debts, except as provided in the next preceding chapter, and in section 2280.

SECTION 2278. Every devise of land in any will shall be construed to convey all the estate of the devisor therein, which he could lawfully devise, unless it shall clearly appear by the will that the devisor intended to convey a less estate.

SECTION 2279. Any estate, right or interest in lands acquired by the testator, after the making of his will, shall pass thereby in like manner as if possessed at the time of making the will, if such shall manifestly appear, by the will, to have been the intention of the testator.

SECTION 2280. When any homestead shall have been disposed of by the last will and testament of the owner thereof, the devisee shall take the same, free of all judgments and claims against the testator or his estate, except mortgages lawfully executed thereon, and laborers' and mechanics' liens.

SECTION 2281. Every person of full age, and every married woman of the age of eighteen years and upward, being of sound mind, may,

by last will and testament in writing, bequeath and dispose of all his or her personal estate remaining at his or her decease, and all his or her rights thereto and interest therein, subject to the payment of debts; and all such estate not disposed of by the will shall be administered as intestate estate.

SECTION 2284. All beneficial devises, legacies and gifts whatsoever, made or given in any will to a subscribing witness thereto, shall be wholly void, unless there be two other competent subscribing witnesses to the same; but a mere charge on the lands of the devisor for the payment of debts, shall not prevent his creditors from being competent witnesses to his will.

SECTION 2285. But if such witnesses, to whom any beneficial devise may have been made or given, would have been entitled to any share of the estate of the testator, in case the will was not established, then so much of the share that would have descended or been distributed to such witness as will not exceed the devise or bequest made to him in the will, shall be saved to him and he may recover the same of the devisees or legatees named in the will, in proportion to and out of the parts devised or bequeathed to them.

SECTION 2286. When any child shall be born after the making of his parent's will, and no provision shall be made therein for him, such child shall have the same share in the estate of the testator as if he had died intestate; and the share of such child shall be assigned to him, as provided by law, in case of intestate estates, unless it shall be apparent from the will that it was the intention of the testator that no provision should be made for such child.

SECTION 2290. No will, or any part thereof, shall be revoked, unless by burning, tearing, cancelling or obliterating the same, with the intention of revoking it, by the testator, or by some person in his presence and by his direction, or by some other will or codicil in writing, executed as prescribed in this chapter, or by some other writing, signed, attested and subscribed in the manner provided in this chapter, for the execution of a will; excepting only that nothing contained in this section shall prevent the revocation implied by law, from subsequent change in the condition or circumstance of the testator. The power to make a will implies the power to revoke the same.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

SECTION 4021. Any inhabitant of this State may petition the county court, in the county of his residence, for leave to adopt a child not his own by birth; but no such petition made by a married person shall be granted, unless the husband or wife of the petitioner shall join therein, nor shall any such petition be granted, unless the child, if of the age of fourteen years or more shall consent thereto in writing, in the presence of the court.

SECTION 4022. No such adoption shall be made, without the written consent of the living parents of such child, unless the court shall find that one of the parents has abandoned the child, or gone to parts unknown, when such consent may be given by the parent, if any, having the care of the child. In case where neither of the parents is living, or if living, have abandoned the child, such consent may be given by the guardian of such child, if any; if such child has no guardian, such consent may be given by any of the next of kin of such child, residing in this State, or, in the discretion of the court, by some suitable person to be appointed by the court.

2. In case of a child not born in lawful wedlock, such consent may be given by the mother, if she is living, and has not abandoned such child.

SECTION 4023. If upon such petition and consent, as herein provided, the county court shall be satisfied of the identity and the relation of the persons, and that the petitioners are of sufficient ability to bring up, and furnish suitable nurture and education for the child, having reference to the degree and condition of its parents, and that it is proper that such

adoption shall take effect, such court shall make an order, reciting said facts that from and after the date thereof, such child shall be deemed, to all legal intents and purposes, the child of the petitioners; and by such order the name of such child may be changed to that of the parents by adoption.

SECTION 4024. A child so adopted, shall be deemed for the purposes of inheritance and succession by such child, custody of the person and the right of obedience by such parents by adoption, the same to all intents and purposes as if such child had been born in lawful wedlock of such parents by adoption, except that such child shall be capable of taking property expressly limited to the heirs of the body of such parents.

The natural parents of such child shall be deprived, by such order of adoption, of all legal rights whatsoever, respecting such child, and such child shall be free from all legal obligations of maintainance and obedience to such natural parents.

INTEREST.

The legal rate of interest is seven per cent. A higher rate of interest, not exceeding ten per cent. may be contracted for, but the same must be clearly expressed in writing. If a higher rate than ten per cent is collected or paid, the party so paying may, by himself or his legal representatives, recover treble the amount so paid above the ten per cent, if the action is brought within one year, and all bills, notes or other contracts whatsoever, whereby a higher rate than ten per cent. is secured, shall be liable for the principal sum, but no interest shall be recovered.

JURORS.

All persons who are citizens of the United States, and qualified electors of the State, shall be liable to be drawn as jurors, except as provided as follows :

The following persons shall be exempt from serving as jurors :

All officers of the United States, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of State, attorney general, state superintendent and treasurer; all judges, clerks of courts of record, all county officers, constables, attorneys and counselors at law, ministers of the Gospel of any religious society, practicing surgeons, dentists, and the president, professors and instructors of the university, and their assistants, and of the several colleges and incorporated academies ; all teachers of the State Normal School, one teacher in each common school, the officers and employes of the several State institutions, one miller in each grist mill, one ferryman at each licensed ferry, one dispensing druggist in each prescription drug-store, all telegraph operators and superintendents, conductors, engineers, firemen, collectors and station agents of any railroad or canal, while in actual employment as such ; all officers of the fire departments, and all active members of fire companies organized according to law ; all persons more than sixty years of age, and all persons of unsound mind or subject to any bodily infirmity amounting to disability ; all persons who have been convicted of any infamous crime, and all persons who have served at any regular term of the circuit court as a grand or pettit juror within one year, except he shall be summoned on a special venire or as a talesman.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Capital punishment has been abolished in this State.

WOLF SCALPS.

A bounty of five dollars is paid for each wolf scalp.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Whenever either of the articles, as commodities hereafter mentioned, shall be sold by the bushel, and no special agreement as to measure or weight thereof shall be made by the parties, the measure shall be ascertained by weight, and shall be computed as follows :

Sixty pounds for a bushel of wheat, clover seed, potatoes or beans.

Fifty pounds for a bushel of green apples ; fifty-six pounds for a bushel of rutabagas, flax-

seed, rye or Indian corn shelled, and seventy pounds of Indian corn unshelled; fifty pounds for a bushel of rape seed, buckwheat, beets, carrots or onions; forty-eight pounds for a bushel of barley; forty-five pounds for a bushel of timothy seed; forty-four pounds for a bushel of parsnips; forty-two pounds for a bushel of common flat turnips: thirty-two pounds for a bushel of oats, and twenty-eight pounds for a bushel of dried apples or dried peaches.

No person shall sell, buy or receive in store any grain at any weight or measure per bushel other than the standard weight or measure per bushel fixed by law; and, for any violation, the offender shall forfeit not less than $5 nor more than $50.

DAMAGES FOR TRESPASS.

Any person who shall willfully, maliciously or wantonly destroy, remove, throw down or injure any fence, hedge or wall inclosing any orchard, pasture, meadow, garden, or any field whatever on land belonging to or lawfully occupied by another, or open and leave open, throw down, injure, remove or destroy any gate or bars in such fence, hedge or wall, or cut down, root up, sever, injure, destroy or carry away when severed, any fruit, shade, ornamental or other tree, or any shrub, root, plant, fruit, flower, grain or other vegetable production, or dig up, sever or carry away any mineral, earth or stone, or tear down, mutilate, deface or injure any building, sign-board, fence or railing, or sever and carry away any part thereof, standing or being upon the land of another or held in trust, or who shall willfully, maliciously or wantonly cut down, root up, injure, destroy or remove or carry away any fruit, ornamental or other tree, or any shrub, fruit, flower, vase or statue, arbor, or any ornamental structure, standing or being in any street or public ground in any city or village, in any private inclosure or highway, or destroy, remove, mutilate or injure any milestone or board, or any guide-post or board erected in any highway or public way, or on any turnpike, plank-road or railroad, or deface or obliterate any device or inscription thereon, or cut down, break down, remove, mutilate or injure any monument erected or tree marked for the purpose of designating the boundaries of any town or tract of land or sub-division thereof, or deface or obliterate any figures, letters, device or inscription thereon, made for such purpose, or break, remove, destroy or injure any post, guard, railing, or lamp-post or lamp thereon, erected or being on any bridge, street, sidewalk, alley, court, passage, park, public ground, highway, turnpike, plank or railroad, or extinguish or break any lamp on any such lamp-post, or tear, deface, mutilate or injure any book, map, pamphlet, chart, picture or other property belonging to any public library, or take and carry away the same with intent to convert to his own use, or shall injure or destroy any personal property of another, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not more than six months, or by fine not exceeding $100.

Any person who shall willfully, maliciously or wantonly kill, maim, mutilate, disfigure or injure any horse, mule, cattle, sheep or other domestic animal of another, or administer poison to such animal, or expose any poison, with intent that the same may be taken or swallowed by such animal; and any person who shall overdrive, overwork, overload, maim, wound, torture, torment, cruelly beat or kill any such animal belonging to himself or another, or being the owner or having the care or charge thereof, shall fail to provide necessary food, water or shelter for any such animal, or who shall turn out and abandon, without proper care and protection, or cruelly work any such animal when old, diseased, disabled or unfit for work, or shall carry or confine any live animal, fowl or bird, in a cruel or inhuman manner, or who shall cause, procure or abet any cruelty above mentioned, or the fighting or baiting of bulls, dogs or cocks, shall be punished

by imprisonment in the county jail not more than six months or by fine not exceeding $100.

ESTRAYS.

No stray, except horses and mules, shall be taken up by any person not a resident of the town in which it is found; nor unless it is found upon land owned or occupied by him. Every finder for a stray must notify the owner, if he is known, within seven days, and request him to pay all reasonable charges and take the stray away. If the owner is not known, he must file a notice with the town clerk within ten days, who shall transmit a copy thereof to the county clerk.

If the stray is not worth $5, the finder shall post a copy of such notice in two public places in such town; if it exceed $5 in value, he shall publish such notice four successive weeks, either in some newspaper published in the county or in an adjoining county, if one be published nearer his residence than any published in his county; but if no newspaper is published within twenty miles of his residence, then he must post such notice in three public places in his county. Such notice shall describe the stray by giving its marks, natural or artificial, as near as possible, the name and residence of the finder, specifying the section and town, and the time when such stray was taken up. For neglect to post up or publish as required, the finder shall be liable to double the amount of damages sustained by the owner. For neglect to post or publish for one year, the finder shall be liable for its full value, to be recovered in the name of the town, and the amount recovered to be added to the school fund of such town.

The finder shall, within one month, cause the stray to be appraised by a justice of the peace, and a certificate of such appraisal signed by such justice filed in the town clerk's office. The finder shall pay the justice fifty cents for such certificate, and ten cents per mile for each mile necessarily traveled to make the same.

The owner may have the same restored to him any time within one year after such notice is filed in the town clerk's office, by proving that the stray belongs to him, and paying all lawful charges incurred in relation to the same. If the owner and finder cannot agree as to the charges, either party, on notice to the other, may apply to a justice of such town to settle the same, who, for that purpose, may examine witnesses upon oath, and the amount found due, with the costs, shall be a lien upon such stray. If no owner applies for the return of such stray, as provided, and the same is not worth more than $10, it shall become the absolute property of such finder; but if the appraisal shall exceed $10, it shall be sold at public auction by the sheriff or any constable of the county, on the request of the finder, and he shall be entitled to one half the proceeds, and the other half shall be paid to the treasurer of the town within ten days. If the finder shall neglect or refuse to cause such sale, he shall pay to the town the value of such stray, to be recovered by the town.

If any person, without the consent of the owner, shall take away such stray, without first paying the lawful charges, he shall be liable to the finder for the value of such stray. If the finder shall neglect to do any act prescribed above, he shall be precluded from acquiring any right in such stray, and from receiving any charges or expenses relative thereto.

FENCES.

The overseers of highways in their respective towns, the aldermen of cities in their respective wards, and the trustees of villages in their respective villages, shall be fence viewers, and in towns having less than three road districts, the supervisors shall be fence viewers.

All fences four and a half feet high, and in good repair, consisting of rails, timber, boards or stone walls, or any combination thereof, and all brooks, rivers, ponds, creeks, ditches and hedges or other things which shall be considered equivalent thereto, in the judg-

ment of the fence viewers, within whose jurisdiction the same may be, shall be deemed legal and sufficient fences. Every partition of a fence, or line upon which a fence is to be built, made by the owners of the adjoining lands, in writing, sealed and witnessed by two witnesses, or by fence viewers in writing, under their hands, after being recorded in the town clerk's office, shall oblige such owners and their heirs , as long as they remain owners, and after parting with the ownership, until a new partition is made. A division of a partition fence, or line upon which a partition fence between adjoining lands shall be built, may be made by fence viewers in the following cases:

1. When any owner of uninclosed lands shall desire to inclose the same, he may have the line between his land and the adjoining land of any other person divided, and the portion upon which the respective owners shall erect their share of the partition fence assigned, whether such adjoining land be inclosed or not.

2. When any lands belonging to different persons in severalty, shall have been occupied in common, or without a partition fence between them, and one of the occupants shall be desirous to occupy his part in severalty, and the others shall refuse or neglect, on demand, to divide with him the line where the fence ought to be built, or to build a sufficient fence on his part of the line, when divided, the occupant desiring it may have the same divided, and the share of each assigned.

3. When any controversy shall arise about the right of the respective occupants in partition fences, or their obligations to maintain the same, either party may have the line divided, and the share of each assigned.

In either case, application may be made to two or more fence viewers of the town where the lands lie, who shall give reasonable notice in writing to each party, and they shall in writing under their hands, divide the partition fence or line, and assign to each owner or occupant his share thereof, and in the second and third cases direct within what time each party shall build or repair his share of the fence, having regard to the season of the year, and shall file such decision in the town clerk's office. If either party shall neglect or refuse to build or repair within the time so assigned his part of the fence, the other may, after having completed his own part, build or repair such part, and recover double the expense thereof.

Where the whole or a greater share than belongs to him has been built by one of the occupants, before complaint to the fence viewers, the other shall be obliged to pay for his share of such fence.

Where uninclosed land is afterward inclosed, the owner shall pay for one-half the partition fence upon the line between him and any other owner or occupant.

If any person shall determine not to keep inclosed any part of his land adjoining any partition fence, and shall give six months' notice of such determination to all adjoining occupants, he shall not be required to maintain any part of such fence during the time his lands shall lie open.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

The common law right to destrain for rent is abolished.

The atonement of a tenant to a stranger shall be absolutely void, and shall not in anywise effect the possession of his landlord, unless it be made

1. With the consent of the landlord; or

2. Pursuant to, or in consequence of, a judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

3. To a purchaser upon a judicial sale, who shall have acquired title to the lands by a conveyance thereof, after the period for redemption, if any, has expired. A tenancy, a will or sufferance may be determined by the landlord, giving one month's notice to quit, or the tenant giving one month's notice of his intention to quit, or if the terms of payment are for less than

a month, notice equal to the time between payments, or for non-payment of rent, fourteen days' notice to quit. Such notice shall be served by delivering the same to such tenant, or to some person of proper age residing on the premises, or if no such person can be found, by affixing the same in a conspicuous part of the premises, where it may be conveniently read, and, at the expiration of the time required after the service of such notice, the landlord may re-enter, or maintain an action for the recovery of the possession thereof, or proceed in the manner prescribed by law to remove such tenant without further or other notice to quit. If, after giving notice of determination to quit, the tenant neglects or refuses to deliver up the premises, he shall be liable to double the rent agreed upon, to be collected the same as single rent.

MARKS AND BRANDS.

Every town clerk shall, on application of any person residing in his town, record a description of the marks or brands with which such person may be desirous of marking his horses, cattle, sheep or hogs; but the same description shall not be recorded or used by more than one resident of the same town. If any person shall mark any of his horses, cattle, sheep or hogs, with the same mark or brand previously recorded by any resident of the same town, and while the same mark or brand shall be used by such resident, he shall forfeit for every such offense $5; if any person shall willfully mark or brand any of the horses, cattle, sheep or hogs, of any other person with his mark or brand, he shall forfeit for every such offense $10; and, if any person shall willfully destroy or alter any mark or brand upon any of the horses, cattle, sheep or hogs of another, he shall forfeit $10, and pay to the party injured double damages.

SURVEYORS AND SURVEYS.

A county surveyor is elected every two years.

The surveyor may appoint and remove deputies at will, on filing a certificate thereof with the county clerk. He shall be responsible on his bond for the faithful performance by every deputy of his duties.

It shall be the duty of the county surveyor

1. To execute, himself or by his deputy, any survey which may be required of him by order of court, or upon application of any individual or corporation.

2. To make a record of the plat and field notes of each survey made by him or his deputies, in record books kept therefor, and to so arrange or index the same as to be easy of reference, and to file and preserve in his office the original field notes and calculations thereof.

3. To safely keep all books, records, plats, files, papers and property belonging to his office; afford opportunity to examine the same to any person desiring, and deliver the same to his successor in office.

4. To furnish a copy of any record, plat or paper in his office, to any person on demand and payment of his legal fees therefor.

5. To administer to every chainman and marker assisting in any survey, before commencing their duties as such, an oath or affirmation faithfully and impartially to discharge the duties of chainman or marker, as the case may be; and the surveyor and his deputies are empowered to administer the same.

6. To perform such other duties as may be required by law.

The surveyor and his deputies may demand and receive the following fees, except it be otherwise agreed upon with the parties employing them, to wit:

For each day's service, $3.

For each mile traveled in going from his office to the place of rendering service and returning, 10 cents.

For plat and certificate, except town plats, 50 cents.

For recording a survey, 50 cents.

For each chainman and marker necessarily employed, $1.50 per day, unless they be furnished by the person for whom the survey is made.

For making a copy, 10 cents a folio, and 25 cents for his certificate.

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Every town shall relieve and support all poor and indigent persons lawfully settled therein, whenever they shall stand in need thereof, excepting as follows:

The father, mother and children, being of sufficient ability, of any person, who is blind, old, lame, impotent or decrepit, so as to be unable to maintain himself, shall at their own charge, relieve and maintain such poor person in such manner as shall be approved by the supervisors of the town where such person may be, and, upon the failure of any such relative so to do, the supervisors shall apply to the county judge for an order to compel such relief.

Legal settlement may be acquired by one year's residence in a town of this State.

MARRIED WOMEN.

In Wisconsin, the marriage of a *femme sole*, executrix or administratrix, extinguishes her authority; and of a female ward, terminates the guardianship as to custody of person, but not as to estate. The husband holds his deceased wife's lands for life, unless she left, by former husband, issue to whom the estate might descend. Provisions exist by which powers may be given to married women, and regulating their execution of them. If husband and wife are impleaded, and the husband neglects to defend the rights of the wife, she applying before judgment, may defend without him; and, if he lose her land, by default, she may bring an action for ejectment after his death. The real estate of females married before, and the real and personal property of those after Feb. 21, 1850, remain their separate property. And any married woman may receive, but not from her husband, and hold any property as if unmarried. She may insure the life of her husband, son, or any other person, for her own exclusive benefit. The property of the wife remains to her separate use, not liable for her husband's debts and not subject to his disposal. She may convey her separate property. If her husband desert her, or neglect her, she may become a sole trader; and she may insure his life for her benefit.

Her husband is not liable for her debts contracted before marriage; the individual earnings of the wife are her separate property, and she may sue and be sued alone, in regard to the same. She may make and hold deposits in savings banks. She may, by a separate conveyance, release her dower in any lands which her husband has conveyed.

If a woman has authority, she can transact all her husband's business for him; and while they live together, the wife can buy all things necessary for the support of the family, and for which he is liable.

The husband is responsible for necessaries supplied to his wife, if he does not supply them himself; and he continues so liable if he turns her out of his house, or otherwise separates himself from her without good cause. But he is not so liable if she deserts him (unless on extreme provocation), or if he turns her away for good cause. If she leaves him because he treats her so ill that she has good right to go from him, this is the same thing as turning her away, and she carries with her his credit for all necessaries supplied to her; but what the misconduct must be to give this right, is uncertain. In America the law must be, and undoubtedly is, that the wife is not obliged to stay and endure cruelty and indecency.

If a man lives with a woman as his wife, and represents her to be so, he is responsible the same as if she were his wife, even if it is known that she is not his wife.

ACTIONS.

All distinctions have been abolished, and there is now but one form which must be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest, except in case of executors, administrators and trustees, and which is begun by the service of a summons

on the defendant, to be answered within twenty days.

ARREST.

Defendant may be arrested: 1. In an action to recover damages not on contract, where the defendant is a non-resident, or is about to remove from the State, or where the action is for injury to the person or character, or for injury to, or wrong taking, detaining or converting property, or in an action to recover damages for property taken under false pretenses.

2. In an action for a fine or penalty or for money received or property embezzled or fraudulently misapplied by a public officer or attorney, solicitor, or counsel or officer of a corporation as such, or factor agent or broker, or for misconduct or neglect in official or professional employment.

3. In an action to recover property unjustly detained where it is so concealed that the sheriff cannot find the same.

4. Where the defendant was guilty of fraud in contracting the debt, or in concealing or disposing of the property for the taking, detaining or disposing of which the action is brought.

An affidavit must be made on the part of the plaintiff, stating the cause of action and one of the above causes.

ATTACHMENT

is allowed on an affidavit that the defendant is indebted to plaintiff, and stating the amount and that it is due on contract; and,

1. That defendant has absconded, or is about to abscond, or is concealed to the injury of his creditors.

2. That defendant has assigned, disposed of or concealed his property or is about to do so with intent to defraud ceditors.

3. That the defendant has removed, or is about to remove, his property from the State with intent to defraud creditors.

4. That the debt was fraudulently contracted.

5. That he is a non-resident.

6. Or a foreign corporation.

7. That he has fraudulently conveyed or disposed of his property with intent to defraud creditors.

The amount sued for must exceed $50.

GARNISHMENT

is allowed on an affidavit on behalf of the creditor, that he believes that any third person (naming him) has property effects, or credits of defendant, or is indebted to him, also in execution on a similar affidavit.

JUDGMENT

is a lien on real estate in the county where rendered from the date of docketing, and in other counties from the time of filing a transcript, and the lien continues for ten years. It bears interest at seven per cent., or as high as ten per cent. if stipulated for in the contract.

STAY LAWS.

In justices courts, on giving bond with surety within five days after judgment was rendered, stay of execution is allowed as follows:

On sums not exceeding $10, exclusive of costs, one month; between $10 and $30, two months; between $30 and $50, three months; over $50, four months.

EXEMPTIONS.

A homestead not exceeding forty acres, used for agriculture and a residence, and not included in a town plat or a city or village; or, instead, one quarter of an acre in a recorded town-plat, city or village. Also, 1, family Bible; 2, family pictures and school books; 3, private library; 4, seat or pew in church; 5, right of burial; 6, wearing apparel, beds, bedsteads and bedding, kept and used in the family, stoves and appurtenances, put up and used, cooking utensils and household furniture to the value of $200, one gun, rifle or fire-arm to the value of $50; 7, two cows, ten swine, one yoke of oxen and one horse or mule, or in lieu thereof, a span of horses or mules, ten sheep and the wool therefrom, necessary food for exempt stock for one year, provided or growing or both, one wagon, cart or dray, one sleigh, one plow, one drag and other farm utensils, including

tackle for the teams to the value of $50; 8, provisions and fuel for the family for one year; 9, tools and implements or stock in trade of a mechanic or miner, used and kept, not exceeding $200 in value; library and implements of a professional man to the value of $200; 10, money arising from insurance of exempt property destroyed by fire; 11, inventions for debts against the inventor; 12, sewing machines; 13, Sword, plate, books or articles presented by Congress or Legislature of a State; 14, printing material and presses to the value of $1,500; 15, earnings of a married person necessary for family support for sixty days previous to issuing process.

LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS.

Real actions, twenty years; persons under disabilities, five years after removal of the same; judgments of courts of record of the State of Wisconsin and sealed instruments when the cause accrues within the State, twenty years. Judgments of other courts of record and sealed instruments accruing without the State ten years. Other contracts, statute liabilities other than penalties and forfeitures, trespass on real property, trover, detinue and replevin, six years. Actions against sheriffs, coroners and constables, for acts done in their official capacity, except for escapes, three years. Statutory penalties and forfeitures, libel, slander, assault, battery and false imprisonment, two years. Actions against sheriffs, etc., for escapes, one year. Persons under disabilities, except infants, may bring action after the disability ceases, provided the period is not extended more than five years, and infants one year after coming of age. Actions by representatives of deceased persons, one year from death; against the same, one year from granting letters testamentary or of administration. New promise must be in writing.

COMMERCIAL TERMS.

$—Means dollars, being a contraction of U. S., which was formerly placed before any denomination of money, and meant, as it means now, United States currency.

£—Means pounds, English money.

@—Stands for at or to; ℔ for pounds and bbl. for barrels; ℘ for per or by the. Thus: Butter sells at 20@30c ℘ ℔ and flour at $8@$12 ℘ bbl.

May 1. Wheat sells at $1.20@$1.25, "*seller June.*" *Seller June* means that the person who sells the wheat has the privilege of delivering it at any time during the month of June.

Selling short is contracting to deliver a certain amount of grain or stock at a fixed price, within a certain length of time, when the seller has not the stock on hand. It is for the interest of the person selling short to depress the market as much as possible, in order that he may buy and fill his contract at a profit. Hence the "shorts" are termed "bears."

Buying long is to contrive to purchase a certain amount of grain or shares of stock at a fixed price, deliverable within a stipulated time, expecting to make a profit by the rise in prices. The "longs" are termed "bulls," as it is for their interest to "operate" so as to "toss" the prices upward as much as possible.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

The useful mineral materials that occur within the limits of the State of Wisconsin, come under both of the two grand classes of such substances: The metallic ores, from which the metals ordinarily used in the arts are extracted; and the non-metallic substances, which are used in the arts for the most part without any preliminary treatment, or at least undergo only a very partial alteration before being utilized. Of the first class are found in Wisconsin the ores of lead, zinc, iron and copper, besides minute traces of the precious metals; of the second class, the principal substances found are brick-clay, kaolin, cement rock, limestone for burning

into quick-lime, limestone for flux, glass-sand, peat and building stone.

LEAD AND ZINC.

These metals are considered together because they are found occurring together in the same region and under exactly the same circumstances being even obtained from the same openings. Lead has for many years been the most important metallic production of Wisconsin, and, together with zinc, whose ores have been utilized only since 1860, still holds this prominent position, although the production is not so great as formerly. Small quantities of lead and zinc ores have been found in the crystalline (Archæan) rocks of the northern part of the State and in the copper-bearing rocks of the Lake Superior country, but there are no indications at present that these regions will ever produce in quantity. All of the lead and zinc obtained in Wisconsin comes then from that portion of the southwestern part of the State which lies west of Sugar river and south of the nearly east and west ridge that forms the southern side of the valley of the Wisconsin, from the head of Sugar river westward. This district is commonly known in Wisconsin as the "lead region," and forms the larger part of the "lead region of the Upper Mississippi," which includes also smaller portions of Iowa and Illinois.

What European first became acquainted with the deposits of lead in the upper portion of the Valley of the Mississippi is a matter of some doubt. Charlevoix (Histoire de la Nouvelle France, III., 397, 398) attributes the discovery to Nicolas Perrot about 1692; and states that in 1721 the deposits still bore Perrot's name. Perrot himself, however, in the only one of his writings that remains,makes no mention of the matter. The itinerary of Le Sueur's voyage up the Mississippi, 1700–1701, given in La Harp's History of Louisiana, which was written early in the 18th century, shows that the former found lead on the banks of the Mississippi, not far from the present southern boundary of Wisconsin, Aug. 25, 1700. Capt. Jonathan Carver, 1766, found lead in abundance at the Blue Mounds and found the Indians in all the country around is possession of masses of galena, which they had obtained as "float mineral," and which they were incapable of putting to any use. There is no evidence of any one mining before Julien DuBuque, who, 1788 to 1809, mined in the vicinity of the flourishing city which now bears his name. After his death in 1809 nothing more was done until 1821, when the attention of American citizens was first drawn to the rich lead deposits of this region. By 1827 the mining had become quite general and has continued to the present time, the maximum production having been reached, however, between the years 1845 and 1847.

Until within the last decade the lead mines of the Mississippi valley, including now both the "Upper" and the "Lower regions, the latter one of which lies wholly within the limits of the State of Missouri, have far eclipsed the rest of the United States in the production of lead, the district being in fact one of the most important of the lead districts in the world. Of late years, however,these mines are far surpassed in production by the "silver-lead" mines of Utah and other Rocky Mountain regions, which, though worked especially for their silver, produce incidentally a very large amount of lead. Nevertheless, the mines of the Mississippi valley will long continue to be a very important source of this metal. The lead ore of the Wisconsin lead region is of one kind only, the sulphide known as galena, or galenite. This ore, when from mechanically mingled impurities, contains 86.6 per cent. of lead, the balance being sulphur. Small quantities of other lead ores are occasionally found in the uppermost portions of deposits, having been produced by the oxidizing influence of the atmosphere. The chief one of these oxidation products is the earthy carbonate known as cerussite. Galena almost always contains some silver, commonly enough

to pay for its extraction. The Wisconsin galenas, however, are unusually free from silver, of which they contain only the merest trace.

The zinc ores are of two kinds, the most abundant being the ferruginous sulphide, or the "black-jack" of the miners. The pure sulphide, sphalerite, contains sixty-seven per cent. of zinc, but the iron bearing variety, known mineralogically as marmatite, generally contains ten per cent. or more of iron. A ferruginous variety of the carbonate, smithsonite, also occurs in abundance, and is known to the miners as "dry-bone," the name being suggested by the peculiar structure of the ore.

Both lead and zinc ores occur in limited deposits in a series of limestone beds belonging to the Lower Silurian series. The lead region is underlaid by a nearly horizontal series of strata, with an aggregate thickness of 2,000 feet, which lie upon an irregular surface of ancient crystalline rocks (gneiss, granite, etc.).

The lead and zinc ores are entirely confined to the galena, blue and buff limestones, an aggregate vertical thickness of some 350 to 375 feet. The upper and lower strata of the series are entirely barren. Zinc and lead ores are found in the same kind of deposits, and often together; by far the larger part of the zinc ores, however, come from the blue and buff limestones and the lowest layers of the galena, whilst the lead ores, though obtained throughout the whole thickness of the mining ground, are especially abundant in the middle and upper layers of the galena beds.

The ore deposits are of two general kinds, which may be distinguished as vertical crevices and flat crevices, the former being much the most common. The simplest form of the verticle crevice is a narrow crack in the rock, having a width of a few inches, an extension laterally from a few yards to several hundred feet, and a verticle height of twenty to forty feet, thinning out to nothing in all directions, and filled from side to side, with highly crystalline, brilliant, large-surfaced galena, which has no accompanying metallic mineral or gangue matter. Occasionally the vertical extension exceeds a hundred feet, and sometimes a number of these sheets are close together and can be mined as one. Much more commonly the vertical crevice shows irregular expansions, which are sometimes large caves or openings in certain layers, the crevice between retaining its normal character, while in other cases the expansion affects the whole crevice, occasionally widening it throughout into one large opening. These openings are rarely entirely filled, and commonly contain a loose, disintegrated rock, in which the galena lies loose in large masses, though often adhering to the sides of the cavity in large stalactites, or in cubical crystals. The vertical crevices show a very distinct arrangement parallel with one another, there being two systems, which roughly trend east and west and north and south. The east and west crevices are far the most abundant and most productive of ore. The vertical crevices are confined nearly altogether to the upper and middle portions of the galena, and are not productive of zinc ores. They are evidently merely the parallel joint cracks which affect every great rock formation, filled by chemical action with the lead ore. The crevices with openings have evidently been enlarged by the solvent power of atmospheric water carrying carbonic acid, and from the way in which the ore occurs loose in the cavities, it is evident that this solving action has often been subsequent to the first deposition of lead ore in the crevice.

The "flat crevices," "flat sheets" and "flat openings," are analogous to the deposits just described, but have, as indicated by the names, a horizontal position being characteristic of certain layers which have evidently been more susceptible to chemical action than others, the dissolving waters having, moreover, been directed along them by less pervious layers above and below. The flat openings differ from the vertical crevices also in having associated with the

galena much of either the black-jack or dry-bone zinc ores, or both, the galena not unfrequently being entirely wanting. Cleavable calcite also accompanies the ores in these openings in large quantities, and the same is true of the sulphide of iron, which is the variety known as marcasite. These materials have sometimes a symetrical arrangement on the bottom and top of the opening, the central portion being empty. The flat openings characterize the blue and buff and lower galena beds, and from them nearly all the zinc ore is obtained.

It is not possible, in the limits of this short paper, even to mention the various mining districts. It may merely be said that the amount of galena raised from single crevices has often been several hundred thousand, or even over a million pounds, and that one of the principal mining districts is in the vicinity of Mineral Point, where there are two furnaces constantly engaged in smelting. Between the years 1862 and 1873, these two establishments have produced 23,903,260 pounds of metallic lead, or an average of 1,991,938 pounds, the maximum being, in 1869, 2,532,710 pounds, the minimum, in 1873, 1,518,888 pounds.

The zinc ores were formerly rejected as useless, and have only been utilized since 1860. An attempt to smelt them at Mineral Point was not successful, because the amount needed of fuel and clay, both of which have to come from a distance, exceeding even the amount of ore used, caused a very heavy expense for transportation. The ores are therefore now taken altogether to LaSalle, Ill., where they meet the fuel and clay, and the industry at that place has become a flourishing one. The amount of zinc ore in the Wisconsin lead region is, beyond doubt, very great, and will be a source of wealth for a long time to come.

Since the ores of zinc and lead in this region are confined to such a small thickness of strata greatly eroded by the atmospheric waters, the entire thickness having frequently been removed, it becomes a matter of great importance to know how much of the mining ground remains at every point throughout the district. The very excellent topographico-geological maps of the region, made by Mr. Moses Strong, and just published by the State in the Report of the Geological Survey, make this knowledge accessible to all.

IRON.

Iron mining in Wisconsin is yet in its infancy, although some important deposits are producing a considerable quantity of ore. A number of blast furnaces have sprung up in the eastern part of the State, but these smelt Michigan ores almost entirely. Much remains yet to be done in the way of exploration, for the most promising iron fields are in the heavily timbered and unsettled regions of the north part of the State, and are as yet imperfectly known. It appears probable, however, that iron ores will, in the near future, be the most important mineral production of Wisconsin. The several ores will be noted in the order of their present importance.

RED HEMATITES.

The iron in these ores exists as an anhydrous sesquioxide, which is, however, in an earthy condition, and entirely without the brilliant metallic luster that characterizes the specular hematites. Pure hematite contains seventy per cent. of metallic iron, but the red hematites, as mined, are always so largely mingled with mechanical impurities that they rarely contain more than fifty per cent. The most important red hematite mined in Wisconsin is that known as the Clinton iron ore, the name coming from the formation in which the ore occurs. This formation is a member of the Upper Silurian series, and is named from a locality in Oneida Co., New York, where it was first recognized. Associated with its rocks, which are limestones and shales, is constantly found a peculiar red hematite, which is so persistent in its characters, both physical and chemical, that one familiar with it from any one locality can hardly fail to recognize it when coming from others. The iron produced from it is always "cold-

short," on account of the large content of phosphorus; but, mingled with siliceous ores free from phosphorous, it yields always a most excellent foundry iron. It is mined at numerous points from New York to Tennessee and at some points reaches a very great total thickness. In Wisconsin the Clinton rocks merge into the great Niagara limestone series of the eastern part of the State, but at the bottom of the series, in a few places, the Clinton ore is found immediately overlying the Cincinnati shales. The most important locality is that known as Iron Ridge, on sections 12 and 13 in the town of Hubbard, in Dodge county. Here a north and south ledge of Niagara limestone overlooks lower land to the west. Underneath, at the foot of the ridge, is the ore bed, fifteen to eighteen feet in thickness, consisting of horizontally bedded ore, in layers three to fourteen inches thick. The ore has a concretionary structure, being composed of lenticular grains, one twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter, but the top layer is without this structure, having a dark purplish color, and in places a slight metallic appearance. Much of the lower ore is somewhat hydrated. Three quarters of a mile north of Iron Ridge, at Mayville, there is a total thickness of as much as forty feet. According to Mr. E. T. Sweet, the percentages of the several constituents of the Iron Ridge ore are as follows: iron peroxide, 66.38; carbonate of lime, 10.42; carbonate of magnesia, 2.79; silica, 4.72; alumina, 5.54; manganese oxide, 0.44; sulphur, 0.23; phosphoric acid, 0.73; water, 8.75 — 100: metallic iron, 46.66.

Two small charcoal furnaces at Mayville and Iron Ridge smelt a considerable quantity of these ores alone, producing an iron very rich in phosphorus. An analysis of the Mayville pig iron, also by Mr. Sweet, shows the following composition: iron, 95.784 per cent.; phosphorus, 1.675; carbon, 0.849; silicon, 0.108—100.286. The average furnace yield of the ore is forty-five per cent. By far the larger part of the ore, however, is sent away to mingle with other ores. It goes to Chicago, Joliet and Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Wyandotte and Jackson, Mich., and Appleton, Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wis., The Clinton ore is found at other places farther north along the outcrop of the base of the Niagara formation in Wisconsin, but no one of these appears to promise any great quantity of good ore. Red hematite is found at numerous places in Wisconsin, highly charging certain layers of the Potsdam sandstone series, the lowest one of the horizontal Wisconsin formations. In the eastern part of the town of Westfield, Sauk county, the iron ore excludes the sandstone, forming an excellent ore. No developments have been made in this district, so that the size of the deposit is not definitely known.

BROWN HEMATITES.

These ores contain their iron as the hydrated, or brown, sesquioxide, which, when pure, has about sixty per cent, of the metal; the ordinary brown hematites, however, seldom contain over forty per cent. Bog iron ore, a porous brown hematite that forms by deposition from the water of bogs, occurs somewhat widely scattered underneath the large marshes of Portage, Wood and Juneau counties. Very excellent bog ore, containing nearly fifty per cent. of iron, is found near Necedah, Juneau county, and near Grand Rapids, Wood county, but the amount obtainable is not definitely known. The Necedah ore contains: silica, 8.52; alumina, 3.77; iron peroxide, 71.40; manganese oxide, 0.27; lime, 0.58; magnesia, trace; phosphoric acid, 0.21; sulphur, 0.02; organic matter, 1.62; water, 13.46—99.85; metallic iron, 49.98—according to Mr. E. T. Sweet's analysis. An ore from section 34, township 23, range 6 east, Wood county, yielded, to Mr. Oliver Matthews, silica, 4.81; alumina, 1.00; iron peroxide, 73.23; lime, 0.11; magnesia, 0.25; sulphuric acid, 0.07; phosphoric acid, 0.10; organic matter, 5.88; water, 14.24; —99.69: metallic iron, 51.26.

Brown hematite, mingled with more or less red ore, occurs also in some quantity filling cracks and irregular cavities in certain portions

of the Potsdam series in northwestern Sauk county and the adjoining portion of Richland. A small charcoal furnace has been in operation on this ore at Ironton, Sauk county, for a number of years and recently another one has been erected at Cazenovia, in the same district.

MAGNETIC ORES AND SPECULAR HEMATITES.

These are taken together here because their geological occurrence in the same, the two ores occurring not only in the same group of rocks, but even intimately mingled with one another. These ores are not now produced in Wisconsin; but it is quite probable that they may before many years become its principal mineral production. In magnetic iron ore the iron is in the shape of the mineral magnetite, an oxide of iron containing 72.4 per cent. of iron when pure, and this is the highest percentage of iron that any ore can ever have. Specular hematite is the same as red hematite, but is crystaline, has a bright, metallic luster, and a considerable hardness. As mined the richest magnetic and specular ores rarely run over sixty-five per cent., while in most regions where they are mined they commonly do not reach fifty per cent. The amount of rich ores of this kind in the northern peninsula of Michigan is so great, however, that an ore with less than fifty per cent. finds no sale; and the same must be true in the adjoining States. So largely does this matter of richness affect the value of an ore, that an owner of a mine of forty-five per cent "hard" ore in Wisconsin would find it cheaper to import and smelt Michigan sixty-five per cent. ore than to smelt his own, even if his furnace and mine were side by side.

The specular and magnetic ores of Wisconsin occur in two districts—the Penokee iron district, ten to twenty miles south of Lake Superior, in Bayfield, Ashland and Lincoln counties, and the Menomonee iron district, near the head waters of the Menomonee river, in township 40, ranges 17 and 18 east, Oconto county. Specular iron in veins and nests is found in small quantities with the quartz rocks of the Baraboo valley, Sauk county and Necedah, Juneau county and very large quantities of a specular quartz-schist, charged with more or less of the magnetic and specular iron oxides, occur in the vicinity of Black River Falls, Jackson county but in none of these places is there any promise of the existence of valuable ore.

In the Penokee and Menomonee regions the iron ores occur in a series of slaty and quartzose rocks known to geologists as the Haronian series. The rocks of these districts are really the extensions westward of a great rock series, which in the northern Michigan peninsula contains the rich iron ores that have made that region so famous. In position, this rock series may be likened to a great elongated parabola, the head of which is in the Marquette iron district and the two ends in the Penokee and Menomonee regions of Wisconsin. In all of its extent, this rock series holds great beds of lean magnetic and specular ores. These contain large quantities of quartz, which, from its great hardness, renders them very resistent to the action of atmospheric erosion. As a result these lean ores are found forming high and bold ridges. Such ridges of lean ores have deceived many explorers, and not a few geologists. In the same rock series, for the most part occupying portions of a higher layer, are found, however, ores of extraordinary richness and purity, which, from their comparative softness, very rarely outcrop. The existence in quantity of these very rich ores in the Menomonee region has been definitely proven. One deposit, laid open during the summer of 1877, shows a width of over 150 feet of first-class specular ore; and exceeding in size the greatest of the famous deposits in Michigan. In the Penokee region, however, though the indications are favorable, the existence of the richer ores is as yet an inference only. The Penokee range itself is a wonderful development of lean ore, which forms a continuous belt several hundred feet in width and over thirty miles in length. Occasionally portions of this belt are richer than the rest, and become al-

most merchantable ores. The probability is, however,that the rich ores of this region will be found in the lower country immediately north of the Penokee range, where the rocks are buried beneath heavy accumulations of drift material.

COPPER.

The only copper ore at present raised in Wisconsin is obtained near Mineral Point, in the lead region of the southwestern part of the State, where small quanties of chalcopyrite, the yellow sulphide of copper and iron, are obtained from pockets and limited crevices in the galena limestone. Copper pyrites is known to occur in this way throughout the lead region, but it does not appear that the quantity at any point is sufficient to warrant exploration.

Copper occurs also in the northernmost portions of Wisconsin, where it is found under altogether different circumstances. The great copper-bearing series of rocks of Keweenaw Point and Isle Royal stretch soutwestward into and entirely across the State of Wisconsin, in two parallel belts. One of these belts enters Wisconsin at the mouth of the Montreal river, and immediately leaving the shore of Lake Superior, crosses Ashland and Bayfield counties, and then widening greatly, occupies a large area in Douglas, St. Croix, Barron an Chippewa counties. The other belt forms the backbone of the Bayfield peninsula, and crosses the northern part of Douglas county, forming a bold ridge to the Minnesota line. The rocks of this great series appear to be for the most part of igneous origin, but they are distinctly bedded, and even interstratified with sandstone, shales, and coarse boulder-conglomerate, the whole series have generally a tilted position. In veins crossing the rock beds, and scattered also promiscuously through the layers of both conglomerates and igneous rocks, pure metallic copper in fine flakes is often found. Mining on a small scale has been attempted at numbers of points where the rivers flowing northward into Lake Superior make gorges across the rock series, but at none of them has sufficient work been done to prove or disprove the existence of copper in paying quantity.

GOLD AND SILVER.

Small traces of gold have been detected by the writer in quartz from the crystalline rocks of Clark county, but there is no probability that any quantity of this metal will ever be found in the State. Traces of silver have also been found in certain layers of the copper series in Ashland county. Judging from the occurrence of silver in the same series not far to the east in Michigan, it seems not improbable that this metal may be found also in Wisconsin.

BRICK CLAYS.

These constitute a very important resource in Wisconsin. Extending inland for many miles from the shores of Lakes Michigan and Superior are stratified beds of clay of lacustrine origin, having been deposited by the lake when greatly expanded beyond their present sizes. All of these clays are characterized by the presence of a large amount of carbonate of lime. Along Lake Superior they have not yet been utilized, but all through the belt of country bordering Lake Michigan they are dug and burned, fully 50,000,000 bricks being made annually inthis region. A large proportion of these bricks are white or cream-colored, and these are widely known under the name of "Milwaukee brick," though by no means altogether made at Milwaukee. Others are ordinary red brick. The difference between the light-colored and red bricks is ordinarily attributed to the greater amount of iron in the clay from which the latter are burned, but it has been shown by Mr. E. T. Sweet that the white bricks are burned from clay which often contains more iron than that from which the red bricks are made, but which also contains a very large amount of carbonate of lime.

At Milwaukee 24,000,000 cream-colored brick are made annually; at Racine, 3,500,000; at Appleton and Menasha, 1,800,000 each; at Neenah, 1,600,000; at Clifton, 1,700,000; at Water-

loo, 1,600,000; and in smaller quantities at Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Edgerton, Whitewater, Geneva, Ozaukee, Sheboygan Falls, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and other places. In most cases the cream-colored bricks are made from a bright red clay, although occasionally the clay is light colored. At Whitewater and other places tile and pottery are also made from this clay.

Although these lacustrine clays are much the most important in Wisconsin, excellent brick clays are also found in the interior of the State. In numbers of places along the Yahara valley, in Dane county, an excellent stratified clay occurs. At Madison this is burned to a red brick; at Stoughton and Oregon to a fine cream-colored brick. At Platteville, Lancaster and other points in the southwestern part of the State, red bricks are made from clays found in the vicinity.

KAOLIN (PORCELAIN-CLAY—FIRE-CLAY.)

The word "kaolin" is applied by geologists to a clay-like material which is used in making chinaware in this country and in Europe. The word is of Chinese origin, and is applied by the Chinese to the substance from which the famous porcelain of China is made. Its application to the European porcelain-clay was made under the mistaken idea—one which has prevailed among scientists until very recently—that the Chinese material is the same as the European. This we now know to be an error, the Chinese and Japanese wares being both made altogether from a solid rock.

True kaolin, using the word in its European sense, is unlike other ordinary clays, in being the result of the disintegration of feldspathic crystalline rocks "in place," that is, without being removed from the place of its first formation. The base of kaolin is a mineral known as *kaolinite*, a compound of silica, alumina and water, which results from a change or decay of the feldspar of feldspar-bearing rocks. Feldspar contains silica, alumina, and soda or potash, or both. By percolation through the rocks of surface water carrying carbonic acid, the potash and soda are removed and kaolinite results. Mingled with the kaolinite are, however, always the other ingredients of the rock, quartz, mica, etc., and also always some undecomposed, or only partly decomposed feldspar. These foreign ingredients can all, however, be more or less perfectly removed by a system of levigation, when a pure white clay results, composed almost wholly of the scales of the mineral kaolinite. Prepared in this way the kaolin has a high value as a refractory material, and for forming the base of fine porcelain wares.

The crystalline rocks, which, by decomposition, would produce a kaolin, are widely spread over the northern part of Wisconsin; but over the most of the region occupied by them there is no sign of the existence of kaolin, the softened rock having apparently been removed by glacial action. In a belt of country, however, which extends from Grand Rapids on the Wisconsin, westward to Black river, in Jackson county, the drift is insignificant or entirely absent; the glacial forces have not acted, and the crystalline rocks are, or once were, overlaid by sandstone, along whose line of junction with the underlying formation numerous watercourses have existed, the result being an unusual amount of disintegration. Here we find, in the beds of the Wisconsin, Yellow and Black rivers, large exposures of crystalline rocks, which, between the rivers, are overlaid by sandstone. The crystalline rocks are in distinct layers, tilted at high angles, and in numerous places decomposed into a soft white kaolin. Inasmuch as these layers strike across the country in long, straight lines, patches of kaolin are found ranging themselves into similar lines. The kaolin patches are most abundant on the Wisconsin in the vicinity of the city of Grand Rapids, in Wood county. They vary greatly in size, one deposit even varying from a fraction of an inch to a number of feet in thickness. The kaolin varies, also, greatly in character, some being quite impure and easily

fusible from a large content of iron oxide or from partial decomposition only, while much of it is very pure and refractory. There is no doubt, however, that a large amount of kaolin exists in this region, and that by selection and levigation an excellent material may be obtained, which, by mingling with powdered quartz, may be made to yield a fire-brick of unusual refractoriness, and which may even be employed in making fine porcelain ware.

CEMENT ROCK

Certain layers of the Lower Magnesian limestone, as at Ripon, and other points in the eastern part of the Sta'e, are known to produce a lime which has in some degree the hydraulic property, and the same is true of certain layers of the blue limestone of the Trenton group, in the southwestern part of the State. the most valuable material of this kind, however, that is as yet known to exist in Wisconsin, is found near Milwaukee, and has become very recently somewhat widely known as the "Milwaukee" cement rock. This rock belongs to the Hamilton formation, and is found near the Washington street bridge, at Brown Deer, on the lake shore at Whitefish bay, and at other points in the immediate vicinity of Milwaukee. The quantity attainable is large, and a very elaborate series of tests by D. J. Whittemore, chief engineer of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, shows that the cement made from it exceeds all native and foreign cements in strength, except the famous English "Portland" cement.

LIMESTONE FOR MAKING QUICK-LIME.

Quick-lime is made from all of the great limestone formations of Wisconsin, but more is burnt from the Lower Magnesian and Niagara formations, than from the others. The Lower Magnesian yields a very strong mortar, but the lime burned from it is not very white. It is burned largely in the region about Madison, one of the largest quarries being on the south line of section 33 of that town, where some 20,000 bushels are produced annually, in two kilns. The lime from this place has a considerable local reputation under the name of "Madison lime." The Trenton limestone is burned at a few points, but yields an inferior lime. The Galena is not very generally burned, but yields a better lime than the Trenton. In the region about Watertown and Whitewater, some 40,000 to 50,000 barrels are made annually from this formation.

The Niagara, however, is the great lime furnisher of the northwest. From its purity it is adapted to the making of a most admirable lime. It is burned on a large scale at numbers of points in the eastern part of the State.

LIMESTONE FOR FLUX IN IRON SMELTING.

The limestones of Wisconsin are rarely used as a flux, because of their prevalent magnesian character. The stone from Schoonmaker's quarry, near Milwaukee, is used at the Bay View iron works, and is one of the few cases. There are certain layers, however, in the Trenton limestone, widely spread over the southern part of the State, which are non-magnesian, and frequently sufficiently free from earthy impurities to be used as a flux. These layers deserve the attention of the iron masters of the State.

GLASS SAND.

Much of the St. Peter's sandstone is a purely siliceous, loose, white sand, well adapted to the making of glass. It is now being put to this use at points in the eastern part of the State.

PEAT.

Peat exists in large quantities and of good quality underneath the numerous marshes of the eastern and central parts of the State. Whether it can be utilized in the future as a fuel, will depend altogether upon the cost of its preparation, which will have to be very low in order that it may compete with superior fuels. As a fertilizer, peat has always a great value, and requires no preliminary treatment.

BUILDING STONES.

All the rocky formations of Wisconsin are used in building, and even the briefest synopsis of the subject of the building stones of the State

would exceed the limits of this paper. A few of the more prominent kinds only are mentioned.

Granite occurs in protruding masses, and also grading into gneiss, in the northern portions of the State, at numerous points. In many places on the Wisconsin, Yellow and Black rivers, and especially at Big Bull Falls, Yellow river, red granites of extraordinary beauty and value occur. These are not yet utilized, but will in the future have a high value.

The handsomest and most valuable sandstone found in Wisconsin, is that which extends along the shore of Lake Superior, from the Michigan to the Minnesota line, and which forms the basement rock of the Apostle islands. On one of these islands a very large quarry is opened, from which are taken masses of almost any size, of a very close-grained, uniform, dark brown stone, which has been shipped largely to Chicago and Milwaukee. At the latter place, the well known court house is built of this stone. An equally good stone can be obtained from the neighboring islands, and from points on the mainland. A very good white to brown indurated sandstone is obtained from the middle portions of the Potsdam series, at Stevens Point, Portage county; near, Grand Rapids, Wood county; at Black River Falls, Jackson county; at Packwaukee, Marquette county; near Wautoma, Waushara county; and at several points in the Baraboo valley, Sauk county. A good buff colored, calcareous sandstone is quarried and used largely in the vicinity of Madison, from the uppermost layers of the Potsdam series.

All of the limestone formations of the State are quarried for building stone. A layer known locally as the "Mendota" limestone, included in the upper layers of the Potsdam series, yields a very evenly bedded, yellow, fine grained rock, which is largely quarried along the valley of the lower Wisconsin, and also in the country about Madison. In the town of Westport, Dane county, a handsome, fine grained, cream colored, limestone is obtained from the Lower Magnesian. The Trenton limestone yields an evenly bedded, thin stone, which is frequently used for laying in wall. The Galena and Niagara are also utilized, and the latter is capable, in much of the eastern part of the State, of furnishing a durable, easily dressed, compact, white stone.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

The material philosophy of a people has to to do with the practical and usefull. It sees in iron, coal, cotton, wool, grain and the trees of the forest, the elements of personal comfort and sources of material greatness, and is applied to their development, production and fabrication for purposes of exchange, interchange and sale. The early immigrants to Wisconsin territory found a land teeming with unsurpassed natural advantages; prairies, timber, water and minerals, inviting the farmer, miner and lumberman, to come and build houses, furnaces, mills and factories. The first settlers were a food-producing people. The prairies and openings were ready for the plow. The ease with which farms were brought under cultivation, readily enabled the pioneer to supply the food necessary for himself and family, while a surplus was often produced in a few months. The hardships so often encountered in the settlement of a new country, where forests must be felled and stumps removed to prepare the soil for tillage, were scarcely known, or greatly mitigated.

During the decade from 1835 to 1845, so great were the demands for the products of the soil, created by the tide of emigration, that the settlers found a home market for all their surplus products, and so easily were crops grown, that within a very brief time after the first emigration, but little was required from abroad. The commerce of the country was carried on by the exchange of products. The settlers (they could scarcely be called farmers) would exchange their wheat, corn, oats and pork for the goods, wares and fabrics of the village merchant. It was an age of barter; but they looked at the capabilities of the land they had come to possess, and, with firm faith, saw

bright promises of better days in the building up of a great State.

It is not designed to trace with minuteness the history of Wisconsin through the growth of its commercial and manufacturing interests. To do it justice would require a volume. The aim of this article will be to present a concise view of its present status. Allusion will only be incidentally made to stages of growth and progress by which it has been reached.

Few States in the Union possess within their borders so many, and in such abundance, elements that contribute to the material prosperity of a people. Its soil of unsurpassed fertility; its inexhaustible mines of lead, copper, zinc and iron; its almost boundless forests; its water-powers, sufficient to drive the machinery of the world; its long lines of lake shore on two sides, and the "Father of Waters" on another—need but enterprise, energy and capital to utilize them in building an empire of wealth, where the hum of varied industries shall be heard in the music of the sickle, the loom and the anvil.

The growth of manufacturing industries was slow during the first twenty-five years of our history. The early settlers were poor. Frequently the land they tilled was pledged to obtain means to pay for it. Capitalists obtained from twenty to thirty per cent. per annum for the use of their money. Indeed, it was the rule, under the free-trade ideas of the money-lenders, for them to play the Shylock. While investments in bonds and mortgages were so profitable, few were ready to improve the natural advantages the country presented for building factories and work-shops.

For many years quite all the implements used in farming were brought from outside the State. While this is the case at present to some extent with the more cumbersome farm machinery, quite a proportion of that and most of the simpler and lighter implements are made at home, while much farm machinery is now manufactured for export to other States.

FURS.

The northwest was visited and explored by French *voyageurs* and missionaries from Canada at an early day. The object of the former was trading and gain. The Jesuits, ever zealous in the propagation of their religion, went forth into the unknown wilderness to convert the natives to their faith. As early as 1624 they were operating about Lake Huron and Mackinaw. Father Menard, it is related, was with the Indians on Lake Superior as early as 1661. The early explorers were of two classes, and were stimulated by two widely different motives—the *voyageurs*, by the love of gain, and the missionaries, by their zeal in the propagation of their faith. Previous to 1679 a considerable trade in furs had sprung up with Indian tribes in the vicinity of Mackinaw and the northern part of "Ouisconsin." In that year more than 200 canoes, laden with furs, passed Mackinaw, bound for Montreal. The whole commerce of this vast region then traversed was carried on with birch-bark canoes. The French used them in traversing wilds—otherwise inaccessible by reason of floods of water at one season, and ice and snow at another—also lakes and morasses which interrupted land journeys, and rapids and cataracts that cut off cummunication by water. This little vessel enabled them to overcome all difficulties. Being buoyant, it rode the waves, although heavily freighted, and, of light draft, it permitted the traversing of small streams. Its weight was so light that it could be easily carried from one stream to another, and around rapids and other obstructions. With this little vessel the fur trade of the northwest was carried on, as well as the interior of a vast continent explored. Under the stimulus of commercial enterprise, the French traders penetrated the recesses of the immense forests whose streams were the home of the beaver, the otter and the mink, and in whose depths were found the martin, sable, ermine

and other fur-bearing animals. A vast trade in furs sprung up and was carried on by different agents, under authority of the French government.

When the military possession of the northwestern domain passed from the government of France to that of Great Britain in 1760, the relationship of the fur trade to the government changed. The government of France had controlled the traffic and made it a means of strengthening its hold upon the country it possessed. The policy of Great Britain was to charter companies and grant them exclusive privileges. The Hudson Bay Company had grown rich and powerful between 1670 and 1760 Its success had excited the cupidity of capitalists, and rival organizations were formed. The business of the company had been done at their trading stations, the natives bringing in their furs for exchange and barter. Other companies sent their *voyageurs* into every nook and corner to traffic with the trappers, and even to catch the fur bearing animals themselves. In the progress of time private parties engaged in trapping and dealing in furs, and under the competition created, the business became less profitable. In 1815 Congress passed an act prohibiting foreigners from dealing in furs in the United States or in any of its territories. This action was obtained through the influence of John Jacob Astor. Mr. Astor organized the American Fur Company in 1809, and afterward, in connection with the Northwest Company, bought out the Mackinaw Company, and the two were merged in the Southwest Company. The association was suspended by the War of 1812. The American re-entered the field in 1816. The fur trade is still an important branch of traffic in the northern part of the State, and, during eight months of the year, employs a large number of men.

LEAD AND ZINC.

In 1824 the lead ore in the south-western part of Wisconsin began to attract attention. From 1826 to 1830 there was a great rush of miners to this region, somewhat like the Pike's Peak excitement at a later date. The lead producing region of Wisconsin covers an area of about 2,200 square miles, and embraces parts of Grant, Iowa and La Fayette counties. Between 1829 and 1839 the production of lead increased from 5000 to 10,000 tons. After the latter year it rose rapidly and attained its maximum in 1845, when it reached nearly 25,000 tons. Since that time the production has decreased, although still carried on to a considerable extent.

The sulphate and carbonate of zinc abound in great quantities with the lead of southwest Wisconsin. Owing to the difficulty of working this class of ores, it was formerly allowed to accumulate about the mouths of the mines. Within a few years past metallurgic processes have been so greatly improved that the zinc ores have been largely utilized. At La Salle, in the State of Illinois, there are three establishments for smelting zinc ores. There is also one at Peru, Ill. To smelt zinc ores economically, they are taken where cheap fuel is available. Hence, the location of these works in the vicinity of coal mines. The works mentioned made, from ores taken mostly from Wisconsin, 7,510 tons of zinc. These metals are, therefore, important elements in the commerce of Wisconsin.

IRON.

The iron ores of Wisconsin occur in immense beds in several localities, and are destined to prove of great value. From their product in 1863, there were 3,735 tons of pig iron received at Milwaukee; in 1865, 4,785 tons; in 1868, 10,890 tons. Of the latter amount, 4,648 tons were from the iron mines at Mayville. There were shipped from Milwaukee, in 1868, 6,361 tons of pig iron. There were also received 2,500 tons of ore from the Dodge county ore beds. During 1869 the ore beds at Iron Ridge were developed to a considerable extent, and two large blast furnaces constructed in Milwaukee, at which place there were 4,695 tons of ore received, and 2,059 tons were shipped to Chicago

and Wyandotte. In 1870, 112,060 tons of iron ore were received at Milwaukee, 95,000 tons of which were from Iron Ridge, and 17,060 tons from Escanaba and Marquette, in Michigan. The total product of the mines at Iron Ridge in 1871 was 82,284 tons. The Milwaukee Iron Company received by lake, in the same year. 28,094 tons of Marquette iron ore to mix with the former in making railroad iron. In 1872 there were received from Iron Ridge 85,245 tons of ore, and 5,620 tons of pig iron. Much of the metal made by the Wisconsin Iron Company in 1872 was shipped to St. Louis, to mix with the iron made from Missouri ore.

The Milwaukee Iron Company, during the year 1872, entered into the manufacture of merchant iron—it having been demonstrated that the raw material could be reduced there cheaper than elsewhere. The Minerva Furnace Company built also during the same year one of the most compact and complete iron furnaces to be found any where in the country. During the year 1873, the iron with most other material interests became seriously prostrated, so that the total receipts of ore in Milwaukee in 1874 amounted to only 31,993 tons, against 69,418 in 1873, and 85,245 tons in 1872. There were made in Milwaukee in 1874, 29,680 tons of railroad iron. In 1875, 58,868 tons of ore were received at Milwaukee, showing a revival of trade in an increase of 19,786 tons over the previous year. The operation of the works at Bay View having suspended, the receipts of ore in 1876, at Milwaukee, were less than during any year since 1869, being only 31,119 tons, of which amount only 5,488 tons were from Iron Ridge, and the total shipments were only 498 tons.

LUMBER.

The business of lumbering holds an important rank in the commerce of the State. For many years the ceaseless hum of the saw and the stroke of the ax have been heard in all our great forests. The northern portion of the State is characterized by evergreen trees, principally pine; the southern, by hard-woods. There are exceptional localities, but this is a correct statement of the general distribution. I think that, geologically speaking, the evergreens belong to the primitive and sandstone regions, and the hard wood to the limestone and clay formations. Northern Wisconsin, so called, embraces that portion of the State north of forty-five degrees, and possesses nearly all the valuable pine forests. The most thoroughly developed portion of this region is that lying along the streams entering into Green bay and Lake Michigan, and bordering on the Wisconsin river and other streams entering into the Mississippi. Most of the pine in the immediate vicinity of these streams has been cut off well toward their sources; still, there are vast tracts covered with dense forests, not accessible from streams suitable for log-driving purposes. The building of railroads into these forests will alone give a market value to a large portion of the pine timber there growing. It is well, perhaps, that this is so, for at the present rate of consumption, but a few years will elapse before these forests will be totally destroyed. Most of the lumber manufactured on the rivers was formerly taken to a market by being floated down the streams in rafts. Now, the railroads are transporting large quantities, taking it directly from the mills and unloading it at interior points in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, and some of it in eastern cities. From 5,000 to 8,000 men are employed in the pineries in felling the trees, sawing them into logs of suitable length, and hauling them to the mills and streams during every winter in times of fair prices and favorable seasons. The amount of lumber sawed in 1860, as carefully estimated, was 355,055,155 feet. The amount of shingles made was 2,272,061, and no account was made of the immense number of logs floated out of the State, for manufacture into lumber elsewhere. The amount of logs cut in the winter of 1873-74 was 987,000,000 feet. In 1876 and 1877 the Black river furnished 188,344,464 feet. The Chippewa, 90,000,000; the Red Ce-

dar, 57,000,000. There passed through Beef Slough 129,384,000 feet of logs. Hon. A. H. Eaton, for fourteen years receiver of the United States land office at Stevens Point, estimated the acreage of pine lands in his district at 2,000,000, and taking his own district as the basis, he estimated the whole State at 8,000,000 acres. Reckoning this at 5,000 feet to the acre, the aggregate pine timber of the State would be 40,000,000,000 feet. The log product annually amounts to an immense sum. In 1876, 1,172,611,823 feet were cut. This is about the average annual draft that is made on the pine lands. There seems to be no remedy for the wholesale destruction of our pine forests, except the one alluded to, the difficulty of transportation, and this will probably save a portion of them for a long time in the future. At the rate of consumption for twenty years past, we can estimate that fifty years would see northern Wisconsin denuded of its pine forests; but our lumber product has reached its maximum, and will probably decrease in the coming years as the distance to be hauled to navigable streams increases. In the mean time lumber, shingles and lath will form an important factor in our commerce, both State and inter-State, and will contribute millions to the wealth of our citizens.

GRAIN.

Up to 1841, no grain was exported from Wisconsin to be used as food; but, from the time of its first settlement in 1836 to 1840, the supply of bread stuffs from abroad, upon which the people depended, was gradually diminished by the substitution of home products. In the winter of 1840—41, E. D. Holton, of Milwaukee, purchased a small cargo of wheat (about 4,000 bushels), and in the spring of 1841, shipped it to Buffalo. This was the beginning of a traffic that has grown to immense proportions, and, since that time, wheat has formed the basis of the commerce and prosperity of the State, until the city of Milwaukee has become the greatest primary wheat mart of the world.

Up to 1856, the shipments were almost wholly of Wisconsin products; but with the completion of lines of railroad from Milwaukee to the Mississippi river, the commerce of Wisconsin became so interwoven with that of Iowa and Minnesota, that the data furnished by the transportation companies give us no definite figures relating to the products of our own State.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Wisconsin is becoming largely interested in the dairy business. Its numerous springs, streams, and natural adaptability to grass, make it a fine grazing country, and stock thrives remarkably well. Within a few years, cheese-factories have become numerous, and their owners are meeting with excellent success. Wisconsin cheese is bringing the highest price in the markets, and much of it is shipped to England. Butter is also made of a superior quality, and is extensively exported. At the rate of progress made during the last few years, Wisconsin will soon take rank with the leading cheese and butter producing States. The counties most largely interested in dairying are Kenosha, Walworth, Racine, Rock, Green, Waukesha, Winnebago, Sheboygan, Jefferson and Dodge. According to estimates by experienced dairymen, the manufacture of butter was 22,473,000 pounds in 1870; 50,130,000 in 1876; of cheese, 1,591,000 pounds in 1870, as against 17,000,000 in 1876, which will convey a fair idea of the increase of dairy production. The receipts of cheese in Chicago during 1876 were 23,780,000 pounds, against 12,000,000 in 1875; and the receipts of butter were 35,384,184, against 30,284,247 pounds in 1875. It is estimated that fully one-half of these receipts were from Wisconsin. The receipts of butter in Milwaukee were, in 1870, 3,779,114 pounds; in 1875, 6,625,863; in 1876, 8,938,137 pounds; of cheese, 5,721,279 pounds in 1875, and 7,055,573 in 1876. Cheese is not mentioned in the trade and commerce reports of Milwaukee until 1873, when it is spoken of as a new and rapidly in-

creasing commodity in the productions of the State.

PORK AND BEEF.

Improved breeds, both of swine and cattle, have been introduced into the State during a few years past. The grade of stock has been rapidly bettered, and stock raisers generally are striving with commendable zeal to rival each other in raising the finest animals for use and the market.

HOPS.

The culture of hops, as an article of commerce, received but little attention prior to 1860. In 1865, 2,864 bales only were shipped from Milwaukee. In addition, a large amount was used by the brewers throughout the State. In 1866, the amount exported was increased, and 5,774 bales were shipped to eastern markets. The price, from forty-five to fifty-five cents per pound, stimulated production, and the article became one of the staple products of the counties of Sauk, Columbia, Adams and Juneau, besides being largely cultivated in parts of some other counties. In 1867, 26,562 bales were received at Milwaukee, and the prices ranged from fifty to seventy cents per pound. The estimated crop of the State for 1867 was 35,000 bales, and brought over $4,200,000. In 1868, not less than 60,000 bales were grown in the State. The crop everywhere was a large one, and in Wisconsin so very large that an oversupply was anticipated. But few, however, were prepared for the decline in prices, that far exceeded the worst apprehensions of those interested. The first sales were made at twenty-five to thirty-five cents per pound, and the prices were reluctantly accepted by the growers. The price continued to decline until the article was unsalable and unavailable in the market. Probably the average price did not exceed ten cents per pound. Notwithstanding the severe check which hop-growing received in 1868, by the unprofitable result, growers were not discouraged, and the crop of 1869 was a large one. So much of the crop of 1868 remained in the hands of the growers, that it is impossible to estimate that of 1869. The new crop sold for from ten to fifteen cents, and the old for from three to five cents per pound. Hop-cultivation received a check from over-production in 1868, from which it did not soon recover. A large portion of the yards were plowed under in 1870. The crop of 1869 was much of it marketed during 1870, at a price of about two and one-half to three and one-half cents per pound, while that of 1870 brought ten to twelve and a half cents. During the year 1871 a great advance in the price, caused by the partial failure of the crop in some of the eastern States, and the decrease in prices causing a decrease in production, what was left over of the crop of 1870 more than doubled in value before the new reached the market. The latter opened at thirty-five cents, and steadily rose to fifty and fifty-five for prime qualities. The crop of 1872 was of good quality, and the market opened at forty to fifty-five cents as the selling price, and fell fifteen to twenty cents before the close of the year. A much larger quantity was raised than the year previous. In 1873 and 1874 the crop was fair and prices ruled from thirty-three to forty-five cents, with increased production. About 18,000 bales were reported as being shipped from the different railway stations of the State. Prices were extremely irregular during 1875, and, after the new crop reached market, fell to a point that would not pay the cost of production. In 1876 prices ruled low at the opening of the year, and advanced from five to ten cents in January to twenty-eight to thirty in November. Over 17,000 bales were received at Milwaukee, over 10,000 bales being of the crop of the previous year. Over 13,000 bales were shipped out of the State.

TOBACCO.

Tobacco raising is comparatively a new industry in Wisconsin, but is rapidly growing in importance and magnitude. It sells readily for from four to ten cents per pound, and the plant

is easily raised. It is not regarded as of superior quality. It first appears as a commodity of transportation in the railway reports for the year 1871, when the Prairie du Chien division of the St. Paul road moved eastward 1,373,650 pounds. During the four years ending with 1876, there were shipped from Milwaukee an average of 5,118,530 pounds annually, the maximum being in 1874, 6,982,175 pounds; the minimum in 1875, 2,743,854 pounds. The crop of 1876 escaped the early frosts, and netted the producer from five to seven cents per pound. The greater part of it was shipped to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Comparatively little of the leaf raised in the State is used here or by western manufacturers. The crop of the present year, 1877, is a large one, and has been secured in good order. It is being contracted for at from four to six cents per pound.

CRANBERRIES.

The cranberry trade is yet in its infancy. But little, comparatively, has been done in developing the capabilities of the extensive bodies of marsh and swamp lands interspersed throughout the northern part of the State. Increased attention is being paid to the culture of the fruit; yet, the demand will probably keep ahead of the supply for many years to come. In 1851 less than 1,500 barrels were sent out of the State. In 1872, the year of greatest production, over 37,000 barrels were exported, and, in 1876, about 17,000 barrels. The price has varied in different years, and taken a range from eight to fifteen dollars a barrel.

SPIRITUOUS AND MALT LIQUORS.

The production of liquors, both spirituous and malt, has kept pace with the growth of population and with the other industries of the State. There were in Wisconsin, in 1872, 292 breweries and ten distilleries. In 1876 there were 293 of the former and ten of the latter, and most of them were kept running to their full capacity. Milwaukee alone produced, in 1876, 321,611 barrels of lager beer, and 43,175 barrels of high wines. In 1865 it furnished 65, 666 barrels of beer, and in 1870, 108,845 barrels. In 1865 it furnished 3,046 barrels of high wines; in 1870, 22,867 barrels; and in 1875, 39,005. A large quantity of the beer made was shipped to eastern and southern cities. The beer made in 1876 sold at the rate of ten dollars per barrel, the wholesale price of the brewers bringing the sum of $3,216,110. The fame of Milwaukee lager beer is widely extended. This city has furnished since 1870, 1,520,308 barrels which, at the wholesale price, brought $15,203, 170. The total production of beer by all the 293 breweries of the State, for 1876, was 450, 508 barrels.

In 1876 Milwaukee produced 43,175 barrels of high wines, or distilled spirits, and the State of Wisconsin, 51,959 barrels. In 1870 the former produced 108,845 barrels of beer, and 22,867 barrels of distilled spirits, and in the same year the State of Wisconsin produced 189,664 barrels of beer and 36,145 barrels of distilled spirits.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Porcelain clay, or kaolin, is found in numerous places in Wood and Marathon counties. The mineral is found in but few places in the United States in quantities sufficient to justify the investment of capital necessary to manufacture it. In the counties mentioned the deposits are found in extensive beds, and only capital and enterprise are needed to make their development profitable. Clay of superior quality for making brick and of fair quality for pottery, is found in numerous localities. The famous "Milwaukee brick," remarkable for their beautiful cream color, is made from a fine clay which is abundant near Milwaukee, and is found in extensive beds at Watertown, Whitewater, Edgerton, Stoughton, and several places on the lake shore north of Milwaukee. At Whitewater and some other places the clay is used with success for the making of pottery ware. Water-lime, or hydraulic cement, occurs in numerous places throughout the State. An extensive bed, covering between 100 and 200

acres and of an indefinite depth, exists on the banks of the Milwaukee river, and not over one and a half miles from the city limits of Milwaukee. The cement made from the rock of this deposit is first class in quality, and between 20,000 and 30,000 barrels were made and sold last year. The capacity of the works for reducing the rock to cement has been increased to 500 barrels per day. Stones suitable for building purposes are widely distributed throughout the State, and nearly every town has its available quarry. Many of these quarries furnish stone of fine quality for substantial and permanent edifices. The quarry at Prairie du Chien furnished the stone for the capitol building at Madison, which equals in beauty that of any State in the Union. At Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison, La Crosse and many other places,are found quarries of superior building stone. Granite is found in extensive beds in Marathon and Wood counties, and dressed specimens exhibited at the "Centennial" last year, attracted attention for their fine polish. Marbles of various kinds are likewise found in the State. Some of them are beginning to attract attention and are likely to prove valuable. The report of Messrs. Foster & Whitney, United States geologists, speaks of quarries on the Menomonee and Michigamig rivers as affording beautiful varieties and susceptible of a high polish. Richland county contains marble, but its quality is generally considered inferior.

WATER POWERS.

Wisconsin is fast becoming a manufacturing State. Its forests of pine, oak, walnut, maple, ash and other valuable woods used for lumber, are well-nigh inexhaustible. Its water-power for driving the wheels of machinery is not equaled by that of any State in the northwest. The Lower Fox river, between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, a distance of thirty-five miles, furnishes some of the best facilities for manufacturing enterprise in the whole country. Lake Winnebago as a reservoir gives it a great and special advantage, in freedom from liability to freshets and droughts. The stream never varies but a few feet from its highest to its lowest stage, yet gives a steady flow. The Green Bay and Mississippi Canal Company has, during the last twenty-five years, constructed numerous dams, canals and locks, constituting very valuable improvements. All the property of that company has been transferred to the United States government, which has entered upon a system to render the Fox and Wisconsin rivers navigable to the Mississippi. The fall between the lake and Depere is 150 feet, and the water can be utilized in propelling machinery at Neenah, Menasha, Appleton, Cedar, Little Chute, Kaukauna, Rapid Croche, Little Kaukauna and Depere. The water-power at Appleton in its natural advantages, is pronounced by Hon. Hiram Barney, of New York, superior to those at Lowell, Paterson and Rochester, combined. The water-power of the Fox has been improved to a considerable extent, but its full capacity has hardly been touched. Attention has been drawn to it, however, and no doubt is entertained that in a few years the hum of machinery to be propelled by it, will be heard the entire length of the thirty-five miles. The facilities presented by its nearness to timber, iron, and a rich and productive agricultural region, give it an advantage over any of the eastern manufacturing points.

The Wisconsin river rises in the extreme northern part of the State, and has its source in a great number of small lakes. The upper portion abounds in valuable water privileges, only a few of which are improved. There are a large number of saw mills running upon the power of this river. Other machinery, to a limited extent, is in operation.

The "Big Bull" Falls, at Wausau, are improved, and a power of twenty-two feet fall is obtained. At Little Bull Falls, below Wausau, there is a fall of eighteen feet, partially improved. There are many other water-powers

in Marathon county, some of which are used in propelling flouring-mills and saw-mills. At Grand Rapids, there is a descent of thirty feet to the mile, and the water can be used many times. Each time, 5,000 horse-power is obtained. At Kilbourn City, a large amount of power can be obtained for manufacturing purposes.

Chippewa river has its origin in small streams in the north part of the State. Explorers tell us that there are a large number of water-powers on all the upper branches, but as the country is yet unsettled, none of them have been improved, and very few even located on our maps. Brunette Falls and Ameger Falls, above Chippewa Falls city, must furnish considerable water-power, but its extent is not known. At Chippewa Falls is an excellent water-power, only partially improved. The river descends twenty-six feet in three-fourths of a mile. At Duncan creek, at the same place, there is a good fall, improved to run a large flouring-mill. At Eagle Rapids, five miles above Chippewa Falls, $120,000 has been expended in improving the fall of the Chippewa river. The city of Eau Claire is situated at the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire rivers, and possesses in its immediate vicinity, water-powers almost unrivaled. Some of them are improved. The citizens of Eau Claire have, for several years, striven to obtain Legislative authority to dam the Chippewa river, so as to improve the water-power of the Dells, and a lively contest, known as the "Dells fight," has been carried on with the capitalists along the river above that town. There are immense water-powers in Dunn county, on the Red Cedar, Chippewa and Eau Galle rivers, on which there are many lumbering establishments. In Pepin county also there are good powers. The Black river and its branches, the La Crosse, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Beaver, and Tamaso, furnish many valuable powers. The St. Croix river is not excelled in the value of its water privileges by any stream in the State, except the Lower Fox river. At St. Croix Falls, the water of the river makes a descent of eighty-five feet in a distance of five miles, and the volume of water is sufficient to move the machinery for an immense manufacturing business, and the banks present good facilities for building dams, and the river is not subject to freshets. The Kinnekinnick has a large number of falls, some of them partially improved. Within twenty-five miles of its entrance into Lake St. Croix, it has a fall of 200 feet, and the volume of water averages about 3,000 cubic feet per minute. Rock river affords valuable water privileges at Watertown (with twenty-four feet fall), and largely improved; at Jefferson, Indian Ford and Janesville, all of which are improved. Beloit also has an excellent water-power, and it is largely improved. Scattered throughout the State are many other water-powers, not alluded to in the foregoing. There are several in Manitowoc county; in Marquette county, also. In Washington county, at West Bend, Berlin, and Cedar Creek, there are good water-powers, partly utilized. At Whitewater, in Walworth county, is a good power. In Dane county, there is a water-power at Madison, at the outlet of Lake Mendota; also, a good one at Stoughton, below the first, or Lake Kegonsa; also at Paoli, Bellville, Albany and Brodhead, on the Sugar river. In Grant county there are not less than twenty good powers, most of them well-developed. In Racine county, three powers of fine capacity at Waterford, Rochester and Burlington, all of which are improved. The Oconto, Peshtigo and Menomonee rivers furnish a large number of splendid water-powers of large capacity. The Upper Wolf river has scores of water-powers on its main stream and numerous branches; but most of the country is still a wilderness, though containing resources which, when developed, will make it rich and prosperous. There are numerous other streams of less consequence than those named, but of great importance to the localities they severally drain,

that have had their powers improved, and their waterfalls are singing the songs of commerce. On the rivers emptying into Lake Superior, there are numerous and valuable water-powers. The Montreal river falls 1,000 feet, in a distance of thirty miles.

MANUFACTURES.

The mechanical and manufacturing industries of Wisconsin demonstrate that the people do not rely wholly upon agricultural pursuits, or lumbering, for subsistence, but aim to diversify their labors as much as possible, and to give encouragement to the skill and ingenuity of their mechanics and artisans. All our cities and most of our villages, support establishments that furnish wares and implements in common use among the people. We gather from the census report for 1870, a few facts that will give us an adequate idea of what was done in a single year, remembering that the data furnished is six years old, and that great advancement has been made since the statistics were gathered. In 1870, there were eighty-two establishments engaged in making agricultural implements, employing 1,387 hands, and turning out products valued at $2,393,400. There were 188 furniture establishments, employing 1,844 men, and making $1,542,300 worth of goods. For making carriages and wagons there were 485 establishments, employing 2,184 men, and their product was valued at $2,596,534; for clothing, 263 establishments, and value of product $2,340,400; sash, doors and blinds, eighty-one shops, and value of product $1,852,370; leather, eighty-five tanneries, employing 577 men, and value of products $2,013,000; malt liquors, 176 breweries, 835 men, and their products valued at $1,790,273.

At many points the business of manufacturing is carried on more or less extensively; indeed, there is hardly a village in the State where capital is not invested in some kind of mechanical industry or manufacturing enterprise, and making satisfactory returns; but for details in this respect, the reader is referred to the department of local history.

The principal commodities only, which Wisconsin contributes to trade and commerce, have been considered. There remains quite a number of minor articles from which the citizens of the State derive some revenue, such as flax and maple sugar, which can not be separately considered in this paper.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Statistics are usually dry reading, but, to one desiring to change his location and seeking information regarding a new country and its capabilities, they become intensely interesting and of great value. The farmer wishes to know about the lands, their value and the productiveness of the soil; the mechanic about the workshops, the price of labor, and the demand for such wares as he is accustomed to make; the capitalist, concerning all matters that pertain to resources, advantages, and the opportunities for investing his money. Our own people want all the information that can be gained by the collection of all obtainable facts. The sources of such information are now various, and the knowledge they impart fragmentary in its character.

Provision should be made by law, for the collection and publication of reliable statistics relating to our farming, manufacturing, mining, lumbering, commercial and educational interests. Several of the States of the Union have established a "bureau of statistics," and no more valuable reports emanate from any of their State departments than those that exhibit a condensed view of the material results accomplished each year. Most of the European States foster these agencies with as much solicitude as any department of their government. Indeed, they have become a social as well as a material necessity, for social science extends its inquiries to the physical laws of man as a social being; to the resources of the country; its productions; the growth of society, and to *all* those facts or conditions which may increase or diminish the

strength, growth or happiness of a people. Statistics are the foundation and corner-stone of social science, which is the highest and noblest of all the sciences.

A writer has said that, "If God had designed Wisconsin to be chiefly a manufacturing State, instead of agricultural, which she claims to be, and is, it is difficult to see more than one particular in which He could have endowed her more richly for that purpose." She has all the material for the construction of articles of use and luxury, the means of motive power to propel the machinery, to turn and fashion, weave, forge, and grind the natural elements that abound in such rich profusion. She has also the men whose enterprise and skill have accomplished most surprising results, in not only building up a name for themselves, but in placing the State in a proud position of independence.

It is impossible to predict what will be the future growth and development of Wisconsin. From its commercial and manufacturing advantages, we may reasonably anticipate that she will in a few years lead in the front rank of the States of the Union in all that constitutes real greatness. Her educational system is one of the best. With her richly endowed State University, her colleges and high schools, and the peoples colleges, the common schools, she has laid a broad and deep foundation for a great and noble commonwealth. It was early seen what were the capabilities of this their newly explored domain. The northwestern explorer, Jonathan Carver, in 1766, one hundred and eleven years ago, after traversing Wisconsin and viewing its lakes of crystal purity, its rivers of matchless utility, its forests of exhaustless wealth, its prairies of wonderful fertility, its mines of buried treasure, recorded this remarkable prediction of which we see the fulfillment: "To what power or authority this new world will become dependent after it has arisen from its present uncultivated state, time alone can discover. But as the seat of empire from time immemorial has been gradually progressive toward the west, there is no doubt but that at some future period mighty kingdoms will emerge from these wildernesses, and stately palaces and solemn temples with gilded spires reaching to the skies supplant the Indian huts, whose only decorations are the barbarous trophies of their vanquished enemies."

"Westward the course of empire takes its way;
The four first acts already passed,
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

LUMBER MANUFACTURE.

Foremost among the industries of Wisconsin is that of manufacturing lumber. Very much of the importance to which the State has attained is due to the development of its forest wealth. In America, agriculture always has been, and always will be, the primary and most important interest; but no Nation can subsist upon agriculture alone. While the broad prairies of Illinois and Iowa are rich with a fertile and productive soil, the hills and valleys of northern Wisconsin are clothed with a wealth of timber that has given birth to a great manufacturing interest, which employs millions of capital and thousands of men, and has peopled the northern wilds with energetic, prosperous communities, built up enterprising cities, and crossed the State with a network of railways which furnish outlets for its productions and inlets for the new populations which are are ever seeking for homes and employment nearer to the setting sun.

If a line be drawn upon the State map, from Green Bay westward through Stevens Point, to where it would naturally strike the Mississippi river, it will be below the southern boundary of the pine timber regions, with the single exception of the district drained by the Yellow river, a tributary of the Wisconsin, drawing its timber chiefly from Wood and Juneau counties. The territory north of this imaginary line covers an area a little greater than one-half of the State. The pine timbered land is found in

belts or ridges, interspersed with prairie openings, patches of hardwood and hemlock, and drained by numerous water-courses. No less than seven large rivers traverse this northern section, and, with their numerous tributaries, penetrate every county, affording facilities for floating the logs to the mills, and, in many instances, the power to cut them into lumber. This does not include the St. Croix, which forms the greater portion of the boundary line between Wisconsin and Minnesota, and, by means of its tributaries, draws the most and best of its pine from the former State. These streams divide the territory, as far as lumbering is concerned, into six separate and distinct districts: The Green bay shore, which includes the Wisconsin side of the Menomonee, the Peshtigo and Oconto rivers, with a number of creeks which flow into the bay between the mouths of the Oconto and Fox rivers; the Wolf river district; the Wisconsin river, including the Yellow, as before mentioned; the Black river; the Chippewa and Red Cedar; and the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix.

Beginning with the oldest of these, the Green bay shore, a brief description of each will be attempted. The first saw-mill built in the State, of which there is now any knowledge, was put in operation in 1809, in Brown county, two or three miles east from Depere, on a little stream which was known as East river. It was built by Jacob Franks, but probably was a very small affair. Of its machinery or capacity for sawing, no history has been recorded, and it is not within the memory of any inhabitant of today. In 1829, John P. Arndt, of Green Bay, built a water-power mill on the Pensaukee river at a point where the town of Big Suamico now stands. In 1834, a mill was built on the Wisconsin side of the Menomonee, and two years later, one at Peshtigo. Lumber was first shipped to market from this district in 1834, which must be termed the beginning of lumbering operations on the bay shore. The lands drained by the streams which flow into Green bay are located in Shawano and Oconto counties, the latter being the largest in the State. In 1847, Willard Lamb, of Green Bay, made the first sawed pine shingles in that district; they were sold to the Galena Railroad Company for use on depot buildings, and were the first of the kind sold in Chicago. Subsequently Green Bay became one of the greatest points for the manufacture of such shingles in the world. The shores of the bay are low, and gradually change from marsh to swamp, then to level, dry land, and finally become broken and mountainous to the northward. The pine is in dense groves that crowd closely upon the swamps skirting the bay, and reach far back among the hills of the interior. The Peshtigo flows into the bay about ten miles south of the Menomonee, and takes its rise far back in Oconto county, near to the latter's southern tributaries. It is counted a good logging stream, its annual product being from 40,000,000 to 60,000,000 feet. The timber is of a rather coarse quality, running but a small percentage to what the lumbermen term "uppers." About ten per cent. is what is known as Norway pine. Of the whole amount of timber tributary to the Peshtigo, probably about one-third has been cut off to this date. The remainder will not average of as good quality, and only a limited portion of the land is of any value for agricultural purposes after being cleared of the pine. There are only two mills on this stream, both being owned by one company. The Oconto is one of the most important streams in the district. The first saw-mill was built on its banks about the year 1840, though the first lumbering operations of any account were begun in 1845 by David Jones. The business was conducted quite moderately until 1856, in which year several mills were built, and from that date Oconto has been known as quite an extensive lumber manufacturing point. The timber tributary to this stream has been of the best quality found in the State Lumber cut from it has been

known to yield the extraordinarily high average of fifty and sixty per cent. uppers. The timber now being cut will not average more than half that. The proportion of Norway is about five per cent. It is estimated that from three fourths to four fifths of the timber tributary to the Oconto has been cut away, but it will require a much longer time to convert the balance into lumber than was necessary to cut its equivalent in amount owing to it remote location. The annual production of pine lumber at Oconto is from 50,000,000 to 65,000,000 feet. The whole production of the district, exclusive of the timber which is put into the Menomonee from Wisconsin, is about 140,000,000 feet annually.

The Wolf river and its tributaries constitute the next district, proceeding westward. The first saw logs cut on this stream for commercial purposes were floated to the government mill at Neenah in 1835. In 1842, Samuel Farnsworth erected the first saw mill on the upper Wolf near the location of the present village of Shawano, and in the following spring he sent the first raft of lumber down the Wolf to Oshkosh. This river also rises in Oconto county but flows in a southerly direction, and enters Winnebago lake at Oshkosh. Its pineries have been very extensive, but the drain upon them within the past decade has told with greater effect than upon any other district in the State. The quality of the timber is very fine, and the land is considered good for agricultural purposes, and is being occupied upon the lines of the different railways which cross it. The upper waters of the Wolf are rapid, and have a comparatively steady flow, which renders it a very good stream for driving logs. Upon the upper river, the land is quite rolling, and about the head-waters is almost mountainous. The pine timber that remains in this district is high up on the main river and branches, and will last but a few years longer. A few years ago the annual product amounted to upward of 250,000,000 feet; in 1876 it was 138,000,000. The principal manufacturing points are Oshkosh and Fond du Lac; the former has twenty-one mills, and the latter ten.

Next comes the Wisconsin, the longest and most crooked river in the State. It rises in the extreme northern sections, and its general course is southerly until at Portage City, it makes a grand sweep to the westward and unites with the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien. It has numerous tributaries, and, together with these, drains a larger area of country than any other river in the State. Its waters flow swiftly and over numerous rapids and embryo falls, which renders log-driving and raft-running very difficult and even hazardous. The timber is generally near the banks of the main stream and its tributaries, gradually diminishing in extent as it recedes from them and giving place to the several varieties of hard woods. The extent to which operations have been carried on necessitates going further up the stream for available timber, although there is yet what may be termed an abundant supply. The first cutting of lumber on this stream, of which there is any record, was by government soldiers, in 1828, at the building of Fort Winnebago. In 1831, a mill was built at Whitney's rapids, below Point Bass, in what was then Indian territory. By 1840, mills were in operation as high up as Big Bull Falls, and Wausau had a population of 350 souls. Up to 1876, the product of the upper Wisconsin was all sent in rafts to markets on the Mississippi. The river above Point Bass is a series of rapids and eddies; the current flows at the rate of from ten to twenty miles an hour, and it can well be imagined that the task of piloting a raft from Wausau to the dells was no slight one. The cost of that kind of transportation in the early times was actually equal to the present market price of the lumber. With a good stage of water, the length of time required to run a raft to St. Louis was twenty-four days; though quite frequently, owing to inability to get out of the Wisconsin on one rise of water, several weeks were consumed. The amount of lumber

manufactured annually on this river is from 140,000,000 to 200,000,000 feet.

Black river is much shorter and smaller than the Wisconsin. but has long been known as a very important lumbering stream. It is next to the oldest lumber district in the State. The first saw mill west of Green Bay was built at Black River Falls in 1819 by Col. John Shaw. The Winnebago tribe of Indians, however, in whose territory he was, objected to the innovation of such a fine art, and unceremoniously offered up the mill upon the altar of their outraged solitude. The owner abruptly quitted that portion of the country. In 1839 another attempt to establish a mill on Black river was more successfully made. One was erected at the same point by two brothers by the name of Wood, the millwright being Jacob Spaulding, who eventually became its possessor. His son, Dudley J. Spaulding, is now a very extensive operator upon Black river. La Crosse is the chief manufacturing point, there being ten saw mills located there. The annual production of the stream ranges from 150,000,000 to 225,000,000 feet of logs, less than 100,000,000 feet being manufactured into lumber on its banks. The balance is sold in the log to mills on the Mississippi. It is a very capricious river to float logs in, which necessitates the carrying over from year to year of a very large amount, variously estimated at from 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 feet, about equal to an entire season's product. This makes the business more hazardous than on many other streams, as the loss from depreciation is very great after the first year. The quality of the timber is fine, and good prices are realized for it when sold within a year after being cut.

The Chippewa district probably contains the largest and finest body of white pine timber now standing, tributary to any one stream, on the continent. It has been claimed, though with more extravagance than truth, that the Chippewa pineries hold one-half the timber supply of the State. The river itself is a large one, and has many tributaries, which penetrate the rich pine district in all directions. The character of the tributary country is not unlike that through which the Wisconsin flows. In 1828 the first mill was built in the Chippewa valley, on Wilson's creek, near its confluence with the Red Cedar. Its site is now occupied by the village of Menomonee. In 1837 another was built on what is the present site of the Union Lumbering Company's mill at Chippewa Falls. It was not until near 1865 that the Chippewa became very prominent as a lumber-making stream. Since that date it has been counted as one of the foremost in the northwest. Upon the river proper there are twenty-two saw mills, none having a capacity of less than 3,500,000 feet per season, and a number being capable of sawing from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000. The annual production of sawed lumber is from 250,000,000 to 300,000,000 feet; the production of logs from 400,000,000 to 500,000,000 feet. In 1867 the mill owners upon the Mississippi, between Winona and Keokuk, organized a corporation known as the Beef Slough Manufacturing, Log-Driving and Transportation Company. Its object was to facilitate the handling of logs cut upon the Chippewa and its tributaries, designed for the Mississippi mills. At the confluence of the two rivers various improvements were made, constituting the Beef Slough boom, which is capable of assorting 200,000,000 feet of logs per season. The Chippewa is the most difficult stream in the northwest upon which to operate. In the spring season it is turbulent and ungovernable, and in summer, almost destitute of water. About its head are numerous lakes which easily overflow under the influence of rain, and as their surplus water flows into the Chippewa, its rises are sudden and sometimes damaging in their extent. The river in many places flows between high bluffs, and under the influence of a freshet, becomes a wild and unmanageable torrent. Logs have never been floated in rafts, as upon other streams, but are turned in loose, and are carried down with each

successive rise, in a jumbled and confused mass, which entails much labor and loss in the work of assorting and delivering to the respective owners. Previous to the organization of the Eagle Rapids Flooding Dam and Boom Company, in 1872, the work of securing the stock after putting it into the river was more difficult than to cut and haul it. At the cities of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, where most of the mills are located, the current, under the influence of high water, is very rapid, and for years the problem was, how to stop and retain the logs, as they would go by in great masses and with almost resistless velocity. In 1847 is recorded one of the most sudden and disastrous floods in the history of log-running streams. In the month of June the Chippewa rose twelve feet in a single night and in the disastrous torrent that was created, piers, booms or "pockets" for holding logs at the mills, together with a fine new mill, were swept away, and the country below where Eau Claire now stands was covered with drift-wood, saw logs, and other *debris*. Such occurrences led to the invention of the since famous sheer boom, which is a device placed in the river opposite the mill boom into which it is desired to turn the logs. The sheer boom is thrown diagonally across the river, automatically, the action of the current upon a number of ingeniously arranged "fins" holding it in position. By this means the logs are sheered into the receptacle until it is filled, when the sheer boom, by closing up the "fins" with a windlass, falls back and allows the logs to go on for the next mill to stop and capture its pocket full in like manner. By this method each mill could obtain a stock, but a great difficulty was experienced from the fact that the supply was composed of logs cut and owned by everybody operating on the river, and the process of balancing accounts according to the "marks," at the close of the season, has been one prolific of trouble and legal entanglements. The building of improvements at Eagle Rapids by the company above mentioned remedied the difficulty to some extent, but the process of logging will always be a difficult and hazardous enterprise until adequate means for holding and assorting the entire log product are provided. Upon the Yellow and Eau Claire rivers, two important branches of the Chippewa, such difficulties are avoided by suitable improvements. The entire lumber product of the Chippewa, with the exception of that consumed locally, is floated in rafts to markets upon the Mississippi, between its mouth and St. Louis. The quality of the timber is good and commands the best market price in the sections where it seeks market.

West of the Chippewa district the streams and timber are tributary to the St. Croix, and in all statistical calculations the entire product of that river is credited to Minnesota, the same as that of the Menomonee is given to Michigan, when in fact about one-half of each belongs to Wisconsin. The important branches of the St. Croix belonging in this State are Apple Clam, Yellow, Namekogan, Totagatic and Eau Claire. The sections of country through which they flow contain large bodies of very fine pine timber. The St. Croix has long been noted for the excellence of its dimension timber. Of this stock a portion is cut into lumber at Stillwater, and marketed by rail, and the balance is sold in the log to the mills on the Mississippi.

Such is a brief and somewhat crude description of the main lumbering districts of the State. Aside from these, quite extensive operations are conducted upon various railway lines which penetrate the forests which are remote from log-running streams. In almost every county in the State, mills of greater or less capacity may be found cutting up pine or hard woods into lumber, shingles or cooperage stock. Most important, in a lumbering point of view, of all the railroads, is the Wisconsin Central. It extends from Milwaukee to Ashland, on Lake Superior, a distance of 351 miles, with a line to Green Bay, 113 miles, and one from Stevens Point to Portage, seventy-one miles, making a

total length of road of 449 miles. It has only been completed to Ashland, within the present season. From Milwaukee to Stevens Point it passes around to the east and north of Lake Winnenago, through an excellent hard wood section. There are many stave mills in operation upon and tributary to its line, together with wooden ware establishments and various manufactories requiring either hard or soft timber as raw material. From Stevens Point northward, this road passes through and has tributary to it one of the finest bodies of timber in the State. It crosses the upper waters of Black river and the Flambeau, one of the main tributaries of the Chippewa. From 30,000,000 to 50,000,000 feet of lumber is annually manufactured on its line, above Stevens Point. The Wisconsin Valley railroad extends from Tomah to Wausau, and was built to afford an outlet, by rail, for the lumber produced at the latter point.

The extent of the timber supply in this State has been a matter of much speculation, and is a subject upon which but little can be definitely said. Pine trees cannot be counted or measured until reduced to saw logs or lumber. It is certain that for twenty years the forests of Wisconsin have yielded large amounts of valuable timber and no fears are entertained by holders of pine lands that the present generation of owners will witness an exhaustion of their supply. In some sections it is estimated that the destruction to the standing timber by fires, which periodically sweep over large sections, is greater than by the axes of the loggers. The necessity for a State system of forestry for the protection of the forests from fires, has been urged by many, and with excellent reason; for no natural resource of the State is of more value and importance than its wealth of timber. According to an estimate recently made by a good authority, and which received the sanction of many interested parties, there was standing in the State in 1876, an amount of pine timber, approximating 35,000,000,000 feet.

The annual production of lumber in the districts herein described, and from logs floated out of the State to mills on the Mississippi, is about 1,200,000,000 feet.

If to the above is added the production of mills outside of the main districts and lines of railway herein described, the amount of pine lumber annually produced from Wisconsin forests would reach 1,500,000,000 feet. Of the hard wood production no authentic information is obtainable. To cut the logs and place them upon the banks of the streams, ready for floating to the mills, requires the labor of about 18,000 men. Allowing that, upon an average, each man has a family of two persons besides himself, dependent upon his labor for support, it would be apparent that the first step in the work of manufacturing lumber gives employment and support to 54,000 persons. To convert 1,000,000 feet of logs into lumber, requires the consumption of 1,200 bushels of oats, nine barrels of pork and beef, ten tons of hay, forty barrels of flour, and the use of two pairs of horses. Thus the fitting out of the logging companies each fall makes a market for 1,800,000 bushels of oats, 13,500 barrels of pork and beef, 15,000 tons of hay, and 60,000 barrels of flour. Before the lumber is sent to market, fully $6,000,000 is expended for the labor employed in producing it. This industry, aside from furnishing the farmer of the west with the cheapest and best of materials for constructing his buildings, also furnishes a very important market for the products of his farm.

VERNON COUNTY,

WISCONSIN.

INDEX.

INDEX

1884 HISTORY OF VERNON COUNTY

This index was prepared by Janet A. Roou, Constance Stephen, and Rhoda White who are all members of the Vernon County Historical Society. Their dedication to history is your gain; as you, the reader, use their index.

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AARNOTT
David, 203
ABOTT
A. A., 687
Aaron A., 541
Abesta, 541
Charles, 542
Elizabeth, 542
Jane, 541
Laura, 542
Prentiss, 541
Prentiss C., 542, 570
ABRAMS
B. S., 647
Belus Shepherd, 661
Fannie, 661
Rosie J., 652
ACAU
_____, 429
ACCAU
Michael, 86, 87
ACKER
Anna M., 702
Catharine, 702
Henry, 702
ADAMS
_____, 245
Abi, 500
Alfred, 208, 212
Alice A., 502
Anna E., 594
Arthur B., 256
C. W., 143
Carlyle, 141, 142
Catherine, 502
Cyrus, 609
D. W., 249
Dennis, 498, 499, 501, 774
Eliza M., 594
Elizabeth, 653
Elizabeth B., 705
Elvira, 502
Emily A., 599
Harriet, 256
Harriet F., 502
Isaac M., 210, 502
Isabella, 639
Isaiah, 517
James, 211
James Q., 502
Jesse, 219
John L., 226
John Quincy, 94, 356
Jonathan, 208, 210, 492
Josiah, 211, 609
Julia, 501
L. E. P., 586, 594, 599
Lorenzo T., 210
Marcella, 699
Mary, 609, 653
Mary J., 502
M.D. 495, 496
Mordecai, 720
Nelson, H. D. 502
Nerana D., 502
Philip, 148, 149, 695
Robert, 140, 407, 705
Rosetta, 609
Simon, 147, 148
Stephen F., 639
ADAMS continued
William, 653
ADKINS
J. C., 116, 516
ADLER
Andrew, 752
Caroline, 752
Casper, 752
Catharine, 752
Charles, 752
Edith, 752
Joseph, 752
Mary, 752
Rudolph, 752
ADY
James, 185
Joshua, 185, 711
L.W., 681, 714
Martha, 702
Mary A., 714
Mary E., 711
Minnie, 711
Sarah C., 714
Thomas, 711
William H., 702
AGRILIUS
P., 693
AIKEN
Albert, 561
Daniel, 556
Ella, 687
Elmer, 561
Emma, 561
Eva M., 561
Frank E., 554
Garfield, 561
John, 687
L. A., 557
Lester, 561
Lorin A., 561
Percey, 561
Phebe A., 598
William, 606
AIKENS
Daniel, 523
Melinda J., 523
AIKIN
Granville, 553
AIKINS
Cora, 713
AINSWORTH
Daniel, 682
AIRD
Mr., 341
George, 456
James, 456
ALBAN
G. S., 290
Col. James A., 207
Col. James S., 204
ALBANEY
Father Charles, 21
ALBERSON
Charles, 665
ALDEN
Marvin, 244
Mary, 715
William C.,, 715
ALDERMAN
Rev. E. S., 496, 631, 751
ALDERMAN continued
Elijah, 496
Mrs. Mary, 496
ALEXANDER
Gen., 98, 103, 105, 106
Emily, 219
F. W., 275
Mrs. F. D. 496
Florence M., 517
Forest F. W., 517
Grace, 517
Mary, 517
Reuben, 604
Rue E., 517
ALGONQUIN
Indians, 443
ALLAN
T. W., 568
ALLARD
Lorena, 703
ALLEN
Abner, B., 211
Albert G., 720
Alice, 578
Almeda, 738
Amanda, 704
Anna, 590
Arthur P., 215, 720
August E., 194, 195, 720
Benjamin, 137
C. G., 135, 141, 142, 145, 146, 222, 245
C. H., 312, 730
Calista, C., 720
Calvin, 556
Celia, 194
Charles, 590, 604, 610
Charles A., 720
Clyde, 578
Cyrus G., 146
E. B., 648
Edwin P., 720
Elisha, 590
Emery E. 590
Emma, 738
Ethan A., 578
G. L.,212
George, 217
George W., 590
Gilbert, 202
Gilbert L., 201, 203
Goldie, 738
H., 247
Harriet, 590
Harry M., 216
Hartman, 143
Hartwell, 143, 146, 245, 247 248, 249, 250, 252, 263, 288, 396, 397, 556, 577, 599
Harvey M., 720
Hattie, 590
Henry, 590, 684
Henry W., 213, 220, 225
J., 140
J. F., 731, 734
J. W., 220, 247, 248, 254, 571
James, 141, 142, 143, 720 721

ALLEN continued
James M., 590
John, 171
John W., 145, 195
John Wesley, 577, 578
Josiah, 738
Julia, 590
Lavina, 577
Levi E., 204
Martin, 557, 561
Martin F., 589, 590
Nancy, 610
Oscar P., 215, 720
Rebecca Jane, 705
Rodney D., 720
S. L., 556
Silas W., 211
Silvia, 738
T. W., 212
Thomas, 682
Thomas J., 578
Thomas S., 44, 246
Thomas W., 201
Truman, 738
W. W., 202
Wallace T., 738
Wilton E., 738
ALLIS
E. P., 222, 764
Edward P, 250, 252
ALLISON
Benjamin F., 214
Christian, 477
Daniel P., 243, 244, 255 778
John, 200
John W., 214
Mathew, 747
Samuel V., 215
ALLOUEZ
Father, 81, 82, 83
Claude, 21, 86
Father Claude, 20
AMAN
George, 220
AMBERCROMBLE
Lieut., 374
AMES
Charles, 214
E. H., 221
Erastus, 647
Joseph M., 216
Orrin, 208
AMHERST
Gen., 23
AMOS
Elizabeth, 626
AMSDEN
Arthur, 590
Rachel, 590
AMUNDSON
Mrs., 774
H., 586, 774
Tjostal, 695
AMUNSON
Carrie, 598
H., 598
Iver A., 482
Leanna, 598
Philip, 598
ANDERSON
ANDERSON continued
Lieut. 379
Alexander 111
Ander, 161
Andrew, 210
Andrew, 292
Annie, 618
Caroline, 490
Christian, 505
E., 646
Elizabeth, 219
Emma, 618
Erick, 210
Rev. G. A., 474
H., 711
Hans, 212
Rev. Henry, 698
J. 111
James 110
John, 524, 538, 539, 549
John H., 628, 632, 633
Julia, 549
Laurence, 212
Lewis, 605, 618
Lucy, 633
Major, 98
Martha, 618
Melina, 618
Nancy Elizabeth, 633
Ole, 137, 147, 148, 150, 154, 155, 157, 158, 159, 249, 700
Peter, 505
Rebecca E., 711
Richard, 215
Samuel, 473, 693
Simon, 210
Susan, 612
Thomas G., 429, 473, 474
Wendall A., 252
William, 111
ANDRE
Father Louis, 20, 21
ANDREWS
A. P., 201
Simon, 220
Thomas, 508
William S., 508
ANGEL AND FOX, 632
ANGEL
Robert, 724
ANKENY
A. L., 288
T. C., 148, 184, 191, 199, 200, 222, 226
Tolbert C., 730
ANDREY
T.C., 248
APPELL
T. B., 526
APPLEMAN
Jesse, 501, 687, 720
Mrs. John, 501
John W., 210
Mary, 501
Mary A., 687
Valentine E. 210
APPLETON (APPLEMAN?)
Jesse, 720
Mary, 721
ARCHER
Gen. 262
ARGARD
M. J., 249
Martin J., 61
ARMBRUSTER
Ambrose, 569, 570
Anna, 570
Caroline, 570
Emma, 570
Robert, 570
ARNDT
Charles, C. P., 40
John P., 822
ARNOLD
Alexander A., 45
ARNTZEN
Arendine, 756
August, 756
Henry, 756
John, 756
Ole, 756
Peter O., 756
Rudolph, 756
ARTHUR
Chester A., 766, 772
ASBEMSON
Erick, 213
ASBERRY
Alexander M., 208
ASBURY
Elizabeth, 662
ASHBETTY
William H., 216
ASHBURY
Thomas H., 211
ASHLEY
_____, 678
Catherine H., 737
ASKIN
Mr. Indian Dept. 471
ASLAKSON
Reinhard, 695
Sigbjorn, 695
ASLEY
Patrick, 210
ASMONSON
Halver, 505
ASTOR
Mr., 382
John Jacob, 29, 387, 813
ATKINSON
Gen., 33, 94, 95, 96, 97, 9, 99, 104, 105, 163, 345, 354, 372, 376, 377 378
Brig. Gen. H., 379
ATWATER
Caleb, 333
ATWOOD
A.P. 201
Rev. Alonzo, 667
David, 46
Mrs. David, 767
George, 202
George W., 201, 202, 216
J. P., 201
ANGUEL
Antoine, 86
AUMOCK
Eleanor, 633

AUMOCK continued
George Washington, 633
Hannah R., 633
John Wesley, 633
Mary A., 633
Mary Ann, 633
Mary E., 633
Philip, 633
AUSTIN
Hiram, 605
W. H., 141
William, 184, 186
William H., 139, 140, 243, 556, 605, 606
AVERY
James B,. 536
Rev., W. F., 689
AYERS
Dr., 594
David, 689
Elizabeth, 618
BABB
Eliza, 670, 671
George H., 608
Martha J., 670
Mary Ann, 670
Matilda, 671
BABCOCK
Frederick, 568
John, 731
John D., 742
Simson, 742
BACCUS
Sarah A., 528
BACKUS
Cornelia, 546
BACON
G. A., 681
G. H., 703
Henry, 220
Laurana, 640, 723
Mary A., 640
S., 401
William, 640
William C., 640
William H., 630
BADDEN
Jacob, 248
BAETZ
Henry, 44
BAGSTAD
Mathias, 212
BAHR
Benjamin, 628
Mary, 629
BAILEY
Agnes, 544
Catherine, 502
Charles W., 212
Elizabeth, 527, 646
Mrs., Elizabeth, 743
Isabelle, 544
James, 538, 544, 645 646
James H., 111, 112, 240, 321, 527
J. M., 258
James M., 127, 138, 140, 243, 258
Jane, 219, 538, 544
Jennie, 544
BAILEY continued
Robert, 537, 538, 544
Robert M., 211
Samuel, 544
William, 544
BAIRD
Mrs. H. S., 341
Henry S., 35, 36
BAITZ
Henry, 247, 248, 249
BAKER
Mr., 222
Aluin, 556
Christopher, 212
Christopher C., 208
Enos S., 40
George, 608
George W., 211
Henry S., 203
Hester, 556
James S., 54
John, 556
Joseph, 556, 590
Julia, 590
Levi E., 203
Lydia, 556
Marion, 556
Robert, H., 249
Rodman, 604
Ulialah, 606
BAKKAM
Karn Olson, 486
BAKKEN
Amelia, 498
Anders, 775
Andrew, 498
Eliza, 498
BALCH
J. B., 688
BALDEN
William, 201
BALDWIN
A. A., 244
Eugene, 213
Jason, 208, 213
L., 509
Samuel, 509, 603
BALL
R. Z., 216, 220
BALLARD
Mr., 323
BALLSRUD
C. H., 149, 150, 248, 250, 484
BAMBERG
William, 212
BANKER
B., 492
Leonard, 204
BANKES
Nathan, 203
BANKS
Maj. Gen., 713
BANNISTER
Bros, 684
BANTA
Mrs., 608
Abram, Y., 213
Robert L., 213
BARBER
and Dewey, 189
BARBER continued
Anna, 654
J. Allen, 46, 51
Lucius I., 36
BARCUS
T., 202
Thomas W., 201
Walker I., 212
Walker T., 212
BARDELL
_____, 184
BARDETT
Edmond, 252
BARGE
Adlett, 635
Caroline E., 635
Elizabeth, 635
Francis E., 635
George W., 635
Hardwell Lincoln, 635
John, 629, 630, 635
John F., 635
Mary, 633
Mary C., 635
BARGER
John, 630
BARKER
J. Allen, 45
BARLOW
S. S., 247, 248
Stephen S., 45, 51,
BARNARD
D. A., 147, 148, 149, 150, 153, 158, 159, 244, 688, 693, 694
Henry, 394
BARNES
James, 392
Nancy, 531
BARNETT
Thomas, 208
BARNEY
AND BAILEY, 570
Cyrus, 646
BARR
William, 648
BARRETT
Chester 180, 181
BARRIE
David, 610
Emily, 161
BARRIL
David, 603
BARRON
Henry D., 45, 51, 52
BARROWS
Augustus R., 45
W. 111
BARRY
Mr., 365
A. Constantine, 49
John C., 203, 210
BARSTOW
Mr., 297, 302
J. G. 293
William A., 43, 44, 55, 56, 243
BARTA
J., 664
BARTALF
and Conant, 585

BARTELT
Philando, 556
BARTH
Lawrence, 24
BARTHOLOMEW
Alfred, 208
George W., 211
John, 734
Peter, 181
Peter D., 208
BARTON
Anthony, 218
Peter, 630
Wesley, 509, 510
BARTRAM
Mons, 435
BARTS
Rev., 479
BASHFORD
Coles, 43, 56, 243
BASS
Ardelia, 514
Caroline, 514
Elijah, 514
Elizabeth, 514
Jewell, 514
Manfield, 514
Martha, 514
Matilda, 514
Ransom, 514
Simon, 514
Victoria, 514
William, 514
Zachariah, 514
BASSENGER
Rev. S. D., 732
BATES
Albert W., 639
Daniel D., 203, 536
Emma A., 639
Harvey A., 639
Mary, 639
Paul, 639
Ruth M., 652
BATMAN
T. J., 571
BATTELS
Burt W., 683
BATTIN
Amy, 613
BAUER
Christian, 212
BAUMAN
S., 159
Samuel, 666
BAY
Albert, 479
August, 479
Bertha, 479
Emil, 479
Emma, 479
Gustave, 479
Huldah, 479
Ida, 479
Matilda, 479
Reinhold, 479
Reinhold Jr., 479
Theodore, 479
BAWKUS
George, 210
BAXTER
BAXTER continued
Rev. B. S., 689
BEABOUT
Mr., 184
William, 713
BEAL
Adelaide, 577
Charles, 577
Charlotte, 577
John, 577
BEALL
Lt. Col., 207
Samuel W., 444, 126, 136 204
BEAN
Dr., 135
Clarence, 647
D. A., 135
Dr. D. A., 271, 726
David A., 646
Dredsel H., 219
H. M., 221
Hannah, 730
Joseph, 165
Joseph R., 629
BEANS
Joseph, 666
BEARDSLEY
James W., 45
BEAUBIEU
_____, 450
BEAUMONT
Dr., 336
BEAVERS
W. F., 265
William F., 140, 243
BECK
Caroline, 538, 541
Mitchel/Mitchell, 208, 210
BEDDISON
Amon, 208
BEEBE
Henriette, 514
N. D., 571
BEECHER
Lydia, 757
Dr. Lyman, 717
BEIGHLE
Sarah, 611
BELITZ
Henry F., 51
BELKNAP
Maria L., 586
BELL
John, 52, 598
BELLOWS
Addie A., 661
Augusta D., 661
Elmer, 661
H., 736, 774
Hiram, 660, 661
Ida, 661
BELTON.
Eliza, 570
BEMIS
H. A., 251
BENDER
Hiram, 596
BENEDICK
L. S., 216
BENEDICT
Egbert, 724
Leroy L., 203
BENN
Abraham, 208, 213, 603
Henry, 213, 614
Ida, 614
Jacob, 213
Susan, 614
BENNETT AND White, 751
and Widmer, 751, 758
Mr., 136, 294
C. C., 147, 149
Eliza, 219, 756
Harriet, 258, 573
I. J., 756
Ida, 272
Isaac, 756
J. M., 244, 293, 311
J. M., Jr., 258
J. V., 755
John M., 257, 577
John R., 48, 249
Onie, 756
Phineas A., 207
R., 140
Ransom, 140, 143
Samuel S., 397
Mrs. Van S., 756
Van S., 137, 148, 150, 157, 219, 147, 252, 572 751, 752, 755, 774
William H. 208, 756
William T., 258
BENSON
Elliot, 629, 666
John, 482, 774
BENTSON
Helen, 486
Ole, 482
BENY
J. C., 135
BERBOUT
Elisha, 703
BERG
Clemmet C., 695
Hella A., 507
M. C., 696
BERGGUM
Elizabeth, 486
John O., 485
Wittus Johan Benedictus, 486
BERGH
Alma C., 485
Clara Menneli, 485
Clement Clementson, 485, 490
E. C., 484
John J., 210
M. C., 485
Matilda, 490
Matilda Maline, 485
Nelle Bolette, 485
Oscar Melvin, 485
BERGUM
John Olson, 480
BERNARD
Father, 540
BERNHARD
John, 597

BERRY
Adj't J., 199
A. Constantine, 243
J. C., 199, 774
Capt. James, 137, 737
James, 141, 207, 208, 213, 221, 222, 227, 245
John, 774
John C., 734, 735
Judge, 315
Martha A., 671
Nancy, 726, 735
Philip, 210
"Uncle", 324
BESLIN
Irwin, 220
BETTS
Amanda, 574
Charles G., 574, 575
Charles G. Sr., 575
Julia A. 179
Mary, 576
Samantha, 576
BICKFIELD
Amos W., 214
BICKFORD
I. B., 688, 689
BICKILL
Catharine, 545
BIDDISON
Amon, 215
Elizabeth, 523
James E., 523
Philip, 523
Samuel D., 523
Sarah J., 523
Sena A., 523
William, 523
BIDISON
Philip, 689
BIEHL
Rachel E., 701
BIERCE
Arthur, 307, 308
Elsira M., 189
Emily Ann, 189
Flora Emily, 189
Freddie, 306
R. C., 174, 195, 200, 280, 281, 293, 297, 299, 302, 305, 409, 686, 690
Mr. R. C., 297, 299, 775
Royal C., 227, 246, 267 778
Royal Clifton, 94, 184, 186, 189, 190, 199, 200 243, 244, 246
BIFFI
Daniel, 532
BIGELOW
Warren, 689
BILLINGHURST
Charles, 46, 51
BINGHAM
A. J., 212
James M., 44, 45, 250, 251
BIRCHELL
Nathan, 203
BIRD
BIRD continued
A. A., 39
BIRNBAUM
Charles, 201, 202
BISHOP
Rev., 406, 695
Annis, 659
Clarence, 663
Cordelia, 758
E., 648
E. T., 657
Eliab, 659
Eliza, 659
Hollis W., 210
James, 124, 404, 688
Rev. James, 161, 162
BITERSON
Louisa Catharine, 705
Philip, 705
BJORKEM
Nels Peterson, 526
BJORNSON
Halvor, 695
BJORSETH
Engelbrit, 140
I., 714
Ingebret, 492, 495
J. R., 482
BLACK
Charles, 210
John, 247
Phineas, 354
BLACKBURN
George H., 572
Mary Ann, 572
BLACKHAWK
83, 95, 96, 97, 99, 101 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 330, 344, 372, 373 375, 376, 377, 378, 379 380, 381, 382, 387, 388
BLACK RIVER ROAD, 321
BLACKSTONE
John W., 36
BLAKE
Diana, 279, 280
Edith, 714
I. W., 397, 682, 683, 684, 693, 713, 714
Lucius S., 52
Willie, 714
BLAKELY
Mr., 90
BLANCHARD
Mrs., 502
Allen E. 220
Job., 220
BLAZER
Elizabeth E., 626
BLECKMAN
A.E., 249
BLEEKMAN
A. E., 137, 195
BLISS
A., 248
A.P., 176, 604, 605, 617
Mrs. A. P., 606, 607
Albert, 137, 199, 211, 245, 246, 262, 604, 605, 606, 651, 687
BLISS continued
Albert P., 606
David G., 213
E., 774
Gardner, 607
Louisa J., 262
Parker, 605
Robert, 245
Sylvia, 608
BLODGETT
Henry H., 215
Mary, 661
Mary Ann, 741
Maryett, 639
BLOOD
Henry L., 51
Sarah M., 740
BLOWER
Cornelius
BLUCHER
Rev., 404
BODDEN
William L., 216
BODWELL
Elizabeth, 737
BOHN
C., 202
Charles, 211
Charles F., 201
Herman, 219
Mary, 550
BOLDON
Samuel T., 219
William L., 219
BOLSTAD
Arne J., 663
Bertha, 663
Ellen Helena, 663
Henry E., 663
John J., 663
Maria, 663
BOND
Joseph, 626
Joseph S., 626
Mary, 626
Richard H., 626
Susannah, 626
BOOTH
_____, 420
Jemima, 707
Mrs. Mary, 291
Sarah, 526
Sherman M., 55
BORCE
Rev. Elisha, 568
BORDOE
Carl, 247
BORT
Mary J., 705
BORTEMUS
Elizabeth, 612
BOUCK
Gabriel, 44, 45, 46, 47 243,
Capt. Gabriel, 207
BOUFFLER
Albert, 595
Catharine, 594
Dora, 595
Harmon, 595
Mary, 595

BOUFFLER continued
Minnie, 595
Peter, 594
BOUFFLEUR
Philip, 585, 586, 594, 595, 598
William, 586, 594
BOUGHTON
L. M., 200
Lewis M., 200, 201, 202
S. M., 203
BOULEY
P. A., 774
BOUND
Mrs., 607
BOUTILLIER
Francois, 340
BOWEN
_____, 129
BOWER
Hannah, 575
BOWMAN
Cornelia, 525
Erastus, 711
Fannie, 522
Grizelle, 711
Jerome, 711
Jonathan, 51
Lucinda, 524
Mary E., 711
Nathaniel, 522
Nicholas, 524
Rebecca, 711
Samuel, 711
Sarah E., 711
Thomas, 711
Thomas J., 711
Violetta, 711
Willard, 525
William, 711
BOXLEY
William, 215
BOYD
James K., 492
BOYER
Calvin, 221
Ella I., 715
John, 31
Lavina, 577
BOYL
John, 213
BOYNTON
Samuel B., 207
BOZOLA,
J. B., 528
BRACE
Peter A. R., 136
BRACKEN
Thomas, 252
BRACKETT
John W., 208
BRADFORD
Ira, D., 45
BRADLEY
Rev. N. C., 496, 630
BRAGG
Brig. Gen. 712
E. S., 201
Edward S. 46, 47, 201, 248
BRANDON
Agnes, 542
Annie, 542
Eliza, 542
Frank, 542
Hugh, 537, 542
Mary, 542
William, 542
BRANDT
Rev. N., 161
BRANSBY
Amanda M., 685
BRATHLIE
Betsy, 697
BRAY
Rev., 509
Rev. Alpheus, 667
BRAYMAN
Melvin, 216
BRECKINRIDGE
John C., 52, 244
BREDLE
Peter, 482
BREESE
L., 248
Llywelyn, 44
S., 247
BREIDENSTEIN
Mrs. Martha, 754
BREIDUNG
Albert, 754
Augusta, 754
Johann, 754
Matilda, 754
BREMMER
William, 204
BRENTS
James D., 344
BREWER
Laura, 662, 663
BRICE
Amy, 589
Effie, 589
Jessie, 589
John, 589
Mary, 589
Maude, 589
Oliva, 589
Samuel, 161, 581 589
BRIDGEMAN
Rev. L., 732
BRIDGMAN
Rev. L., 732
BRIDGMAN
Rev., 648
BRIGGS
Capt., 103
Andrew, 137, 138, 139, 140, 171, 516, 556
David, 184, 192
Edward L., 201, 211
Edmund L., 201
Melanthon, 252
Uriah, 110
BRIGHAM
Col. Ebenezer, 344
Edward D., 215
John M., 201
Rev. L. W., 289, 290
BRIGHT
BRIGHT continued
James, 221
BRIGHTMAN
Joseph H., 203
BRILL
Elizabeth, 542
Nelson, 563
Sylvester, 212
BRINK
John, 110
BRINKERMAN
John T. B., 774
BRINKMAN
_____, 149
J. T., 148
John T., 142, 143, 144, 145, 149, 167, 248
BRISBOIS
Joseph, 353
M., 356
BRISS
Emanuel, 210
Thomas, 210
BRITT
John, 179, 180, 517
BRODERICK
Laurence, 203
BRODY
P., 275
Patrick, 159, 492, 496
BROKEN
Leg., 452
BROOCKECH
Joseph, 210
BROOK
Miss, 538
BROOKS
Enoch, 586
Dr. G. W., 271, 730
Grace, 539
Henry, 575
James, 585
Joseph, 717
Julia, 757
BROTHERS
J. D., 215, 409, 690 700
BROTT
Albert, 524
Mary, 524
BROWN
_____, 679
Mr., 262, 608
Sheriff, 180
A. L., 110, 111, 112, 113
Abner, 624
Azariah, 203
Bennie, 713
Beriah, 51
C. B., 171
C. C., 221, 317, 693, 712
Charles, 204, 527, 532, 682, 686, 723
Charles C., 304
Clarence, 723
Columbus B., 279, 280
Dora, 712
E. A., 201
Eliza, 161, 714, 715
Elizabeth, 522

BROWN continued
F. A., 291
Fannie, 661
Franklin, 532
George W., 210
H. C., 687
Helen, 706
Henry, 54
Irene, 532
Isabella, 532
J., 582
James, 243, 538, 712
James F., 165
James S., 44, 46
Job, 160, 585
Joh, 532
Leland, 226, 661
Margaret, 532
Martha, 703
Mary, 532, 646
Mary E., 633
Matilda, 520
Moses, 666
Oliver, 216
Otto, 713
Perry A., 633
Polly Ann, 758
Romanzo, 532
Sarah, 539
Sara A., 624
Sophia, 586
T. B., 177, 222, 244, 247, 249, 261, 262, 305, 495, 682, 680
Theodore, 264
Thomas, 538,
Tobias, 498
Vaness, 703
William, 532, 723
BROWNE
E. L., 52
BRUNET
Jean, 351, 353
BRUNSON
Alfred, 325
H., 688
T. G., 252
BRUSH
Antoinette, 657
BRYAN
Aaron R., 634
Adam, 628, 630, 633, 666
Albert T., 634
Alexander, 634
Caroline, 632, 634
George H., 634
Henrietta
John, 626
Mary, 633
BRYANT
Gen., Ed., 765
Harriet, 735
Nancy, 731
Thomas, 214, 683
Thomas F., 219
BRYE
C. O., 506
Peter O., 505, 506, 507 553
Peter Oleson, 321, 505,
BRYE continued
Peter Oleson cont. 506 507, 551
BRYSON
William, 216, 502
BRZAZOWSKY
Joseph, 649
BRZAZUMSKY
Joseph, 641
BUCHANAN
Ardo, 624
Celia, 626
David, 626
David T., 624
Franklin, 216
James, 52
James M., 624
Mary 624
R. H., 250, 624
Sarah, 220
Sarah M.,220, 624
Thomas, 586
William H., 624
BUCK
I. K., 300, 317, 680, 681
BUCKLEY
Mrs. J., 293
Joseph, 203, 215, 302, 677, 682
BUCKMASTER
Henrietta, 663
BUCKNER
Miss C., 755
Rev., 509
BUFFI
Mary, 532
BUFFLER
P., 582
BUGAIZY
Dr., 272
BUGBEE
Abraham, 216
Elijah, 492
Hiram, 216
Holt, 175
Levi B., 203
Luke, 492
Samuel, 492
Thomas, 418
BULIN
Father Martin, 667
BULL
Benjamin, 137, 246
BULLARD
and Terhune, 122
_____, 679
Amanda, 263
William A., 140, 676, 677 684
BULLEN
William, 35
BULWER
Mary, 647
BUNDAY
Russell S., 211
BUNDY
David A., 211
Egbert B., 48
Emma C., 541
James, 211
BUNDY continued
Leroy B., 161
Lucius, 161
Phineas, 537
Rebecca, 538
Russell S., 208
William R., 214
BUNN
Romanzo, 49, 52, 179, 182 247, 249
BURCH
Rev. Israel, 509
BURCHAM
Isaac M. C., 208
Isaac W. C., 213
Mary A., 558
BURCHARD
Samuel D., 46
BURCHEL
N., 202
BURCHELL
Nathan, 201
BUCHILL
Nathan, 212, 219
BURDICK
D. C., 667
E. C., 202
Elias C., 201, 216
Laura, 515
Oscar, 210
BURKEL
George M., 212
BURKES
Samuel E., 161
BURLEIGH
Mr., 522
Mary, 522
BURLEN
William H., 215
BURLIN
George H., 215, 220
BURLINGAME
A., 758, 759
Mrs. A., 758
E., 758
G. W., 758
J. B., 758
L. F., 758
BURLOCK
William, 528
BURLOCKKEN
Guro I., 775
BURNETT
Allen A., 203, 207, 213
Mrs. Amanda, 704
Thomas P., 344, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 384
BURNHAM
_____, 678
James, 211
BURNS
Andrew, 526
Hannah, 218
Louis N., 526
Lucinda, 526
Marcella, 526
Margaret, 526
Mary A., 526
Peter, 526
Peter J., 526

BURNS continued
Sarah, 526
Thomas, 526
Timothy, 36, 44, 55, 240
William, 214, 225
BURR
_____, 129
Mary, 642
BURRELL
A. K., 243, 257, 690, 693
Mrs. A. K., 305
A. R., 294
Anson K., 778
James, 214
James O., 201, 246
Lucinda, 510
BURROWS
Mrs., 767
BURSETT
I., 140
BURT
William, 110
BURTON
E. H., 250
BURWELL
Sobrina, 570
BUSBEE
Daniel, 161, 570, 722, 774
BUSH
Bibalonia, 524
Charles, 524
Elias, 524
Eliza, 524
Emily, 524
George, 524, 684
George W., 524
Harriet, 524
Mary, 524
Morris, 524
Sarah, 524
Theodore, 524
BUSHBY
Rev., 648
Rev. C., 733
Christopher, 732
BUSHNELL
747, 748,
Mrs. Hiram, 748
BUSS
Charlotte, 577
BUSSE
Sophia, 576
BUSWELL
Ebenezer, 559
Emma J., 559
Gracie, M., 559
H. P., 556
H. Parker, 559
Hiram, 212
Jackson P., 559
Josephine, 559
Lillian B., 559
Loren A., 559
Lyman A., 559
Mary E., 559
Mittie A., 559
Olive A., 559
BUTCHER
Charles G., 668
BUTCHER continued
Elizabeth P., 668
Frances, 667
Henry S., 668
Isaiah M., 668
John J., 668
Joseph M., 668
Katie, 668
Mary M., 668
Robert, 666, 667
BUTLER
Gen. B. F., 594
Maj. Gen., 713
James, 181
Robert, 748
BUTT
_____, 132
Co., 737
Col. C. M., 137, 146, 155 181, 182, 191, 192 194, 195, 200, 221, 244 246, 247, 258, 249, 250, 251, 252, 254, 267, 283, 311, 499, 681, 683, 686, 693, 694
Cyrus M., 207, 208, 215
Judge, 769
M., 215
BUTTERFIELD
C. W., 19
Polly, 634
BUTTS
Marshall T., 161
BYRON
Kidel, 161
CADE
David A., 521
Electa I., 662
Elizabeth, 521
George B., 211, 521
Henry R., 521
Isabell, 521
John W., 521
John Wesley, 661
Jonathan G., 521
John Wesley, 661
Jonathan G., 521
Joseph D., 521
Lydia, 521
N., 774
Orpheus Blain, 662
Rocklin, 662
Roscoe, 662
Stella, 662
Thomas, 518, 520, 521, 606
CADWELL
James, 171
CADY, Nelson, 141, 525
CALAWAY
Archibald, 665, 666
Harriet, 666
Joseph F., 666
CALDWELL
Sarah A., 707
CALEB
Eleanor, 540
CALHOUN
Mrs. Fidelia, 496, 503
Silas, 498
CALKELY
Catharine, 218
CALKINS
David, 555, 556
Frank, 556
Leir, 723
Mary, 551
Orin, 556, 557
Orrin, 555
CALLOWAY
Archibald, 214
CAMERON
Senator, 254
Angus, 45, 47, 248
H., 774
CAMMACK
Francis M., 211
Samuel, 211
CAMP
Capt. 99
CAMPBELL
& Harris, 193
A. W., 184, 191, 193, 258, 694
E. D., 44
Erasmus, 243
Francis, 52
John, 645
John C. 203, 214
Mary, 532, 646
Major, 362
Peter S., 203, 216
Robert, 204
Trader, 28
CAMPFIELD
Daniel, 201
CAMPTON
Robert, 496
Thomas, 498
CANFIELD
Jason, 754
Johnanna, 754
Mary, 754
Michael, 702
CANN
Rachel, 564
CAPON
_____, 706
CARDIER
Henry, 54, 245
CAREY
Byron, 215
Edward, 504
P. W., 159
R. F., 603
CAR-I-MI-NIE
_____, 355
CARLEY
James S., 567
CARLYLE
Dowse and Co., 729, 736
A., 135, 200
Adam, 142, 143, 725, 729, 730, 731, 736
Annie C., 736
C. L., 725
Mrs. Catherine E., 736
Catherine J., 736
Daisy M., 736
George, 736
Mattie, 736

CARLYLE continued
Thomas, 736
Thomas D., 725
Walter, 736
CARNES
C., 202
Charles E., 201
William R., 203, 210
CARPENTER
_____, 246
Agnes, 534
Amos, 271, 495, 498, 641
Cadwell, 641
Cyrus, 641
Elizabeth, 641
Etta, 641
Frank, 534
Mrs. H., 731
J. H., 192
Jasper, 641
John, 158, 204, 528, 534
John Wesley, 641
Lavina, 641
Loretta, 641
Louisa, 534, 641
Louretta H., 643
Luman H., 207
Marcia Ann, 534
Matt, 641
Newton F., 137
Retta J., 754
Robert, 534
Rosa, 534
Roxania, 534
Susan, 641
CARR
C. M., 146, 513
Casion M., 513
Mrs. Emily, 571
Ezra, 62
Fred, 730
Harry B., 513
Isaac F., 513
Lucia M., 513
Nelson R., 513
CARRAMANA
_____, 373
CARREIS
_____, 340
CARREY
David, 521
CARSON
John A., 221
John R., 250
Mary A., 515
Peter, 212
William M., 515
CARTER
Mr., 359
Rev., 568
C. C., 112, 113
Charles A., 193
Marcus, 203
Mary, 193, 219
Sherwood E., 193
W. N., 221, 251, 252
W. N. Sr., 159, 192, 193, 194, 195, 693, 694
CARTER continued
W. N., Jr. 193
William N. Jr., 203, 213
William N. Sr., 213
CAREY
A. S., 605
CARTON
John W., 214
CARVER
_____, 329
Capt. Jonathon, 803, 821
Jonathan, 88, 89, 327
CARY
Miss, 767
David, 520
Mrs. E., 496
P. W., 495
Philip, 503
Sarah E., 520
CASE
Frederick B., 204
CASPER
Rev. E., 539, 667
CASS
Governor, 345, 353, 354, 359, 360, 634
Electa I., 662
Jeanette, 626
Lewis, 52, 124
CASSACY/CASSADY?
John, 251
CASSODAY
John B., 45, 48
CASSON
Mr., 299
Harry I., 258
Henry, 258
Henry J., 264
Henry Jr., 284, 285, 390
Mrs. Henry, 285
J. R., 251, 693, 694
Capt. J. R., 499, 737
John E., 258
John R., 207, 208, 215, 220, 243, 246, 247, 248 249, 250, 252, 257, 258, 305, 317, 319, 409 679, 761
Mrs. John R., 299
Lulu E., 258
Mary, 258
William E., 258
CASTLE
B. J., 250, 267, 288
CASTLESON
Ole, 211
CASWELL
Lavina, 161
Lucien B., 46, 47
CATE
_____, 135
and Co., 739
G. W., 251
George W., 46
N. S., 137, 200, 738
N.S., & Co., 324, 729, 736, 740
CATHERS
James, 629
CATLIN
CATLIN continued
John, 35, 36, 41
CAULKINS
David, 204
Elijah, 212
Orin, 139
CAVANA
John, 312
CAVE
Mary, 561
CAVINEE
John, 734
CEDARHOLM
A., 693
CERTAIN
Mary, 515
CHADEAVNE
George, 203, 204
CHALVIN
Francis, 216
CHAMBERLAIN
H. M., 729
T. C., 62, 63
CHAMBERS
Thomas, 211
William, 211
William M., 208
CHAMPLAIN
Samuel, 81
CHANDLER
Celestia, 585
Henry, 208, 214, 645, 646
Martha A., 646
Mrs. Martha, 743
Miranda, 509
Philander, 509
Sarah, 509
CHANEY
Charles H., 218
Charles K. 225
J. W., 141
James, 146
O., 141
CHAPMAN
_____, 682
C. B., 201
Col. Chandler, 201, 765
George, 571
H.H., 682
Jere, 682
W.W., 35
CHARLEVOIX
_____, 803
CHASE
A. D., 149, 150, 250, 554, 648, 724, 732
Mrs. A. D., 732
Arvin, 724, 736
Augusta D., 661, 686
H. A., 159, 248, 269, 686, 693
Hannah, 554
Henry, 247, 552, 553
Hon. Henry, 137, 777
Henry A., 137, 220, 269
Jacob, 732, 737
Mrs. Jacob, 732
Lucius, 245, 737
M. P., 751
Mary E., 270

CHASE continued
Melvin, 680
Murray, 556, 557
R. J., 184, 192, 736, 737
Ranson J., 203, 214
S. A., 269
Warren, 136
CHASE and little, 553
SHAUNCEY
James, 556
CHEATHAM
C., 162
Clayborn, 581
D., 581
M., 401
CHEATER
_____, 380, 381
CHENEY
Gustavus, 312
J.W., 552
John L., 204, 210
CHENOUETH
Mary E., 543
CHERINGTON
Clement J., 211, 537
CHEROKEE
Indians, 443
CHERRINGTON
C. J., 688
Josephus, 539
CHESBRO
Charles, 672
Henry A., 672
Lorenzo F., 671, 672
Lorenzo Franklin, 672
Nicholas V., 672
Walter, 672
CHICKASAW
_____, 443
CHICK-HONG-SIC
_____, 356, 357
CHIEF DAY-KAU-RAY
_____, 345
CHRISTENSON
Mrs. Algood, 161
Ingebright, 161
John, 215
CHRISTIANSON
John, 505
L., 220
Lars, 696
Mary, 757
CHRISTOPHER
John, 211
CHRISTOPHERSON
C., 774
Christopher, 482
Julia, 549
Karn, 653
Lars, 480, 482, 695
CHRITCHETT
Walter, 751
CHURCH
John W., 208, 213, 621, 623
William, 212
CHYNOWETH
Mrs. H. W., 767
CILLEY
E., 726
CILLEY continued
Mrs. E.,
Erastus, 150
CLANCY
John, 213
CLANEY
Cathaine, 614
Charles, 614
Grace, 614
Isabella, 614
James, 614
John, 605, 614
Maria, 614
Mary, 614
Thomas Francis, 614
William, 614
CLAPP
A. B., 729
Harvey S., 252
CLAPPER
Miranda, 668
CLAREY
Henry, 203
William, 203
CLARK
Abigal, 581
Add, 679, 680
Alnudia, 527
C. P., 500
David Jr., 420
Edward, 527
Effie, 743
Elizabeth, 527, 646
Emery L., 213
Francis B., 213
Franklin, 743
George C., 742, 743
Mrs. George C., 743
Mrs. Harry, 737
James, 171, 694, 742
James A., 117, 401, 743
Jane, 743
Jennie, 122, 527, 686
Lola, 743
Mr., 261
Martha, 646
Mary, 742, 743
Mr., 261
Martha, 646
Mary, 742, 743
Mary L., 717
Matilda, 743
N. S. Capt., 357
Orilla, 593
Permelia, 635
Ramsey, 527
Russell, 743
S. W., 686
Samuel W., 220
Sarah, 608
Satterly, 51
W. P., 649
Widow, 321
William, 527, 742, 743
William Gen., 359, 369, 370, 371, 372
William Mrs., 644, 647, 643
William J. Rev., 717
William P., 243, 258, 743 774
CLARK continued
Zeans T., 216
CLARKE
Brothers, 677, 678, 680, 681,682, 684, 701, 717
C. Edward, 717
Elizabeth W., 717
George H., 717
L. M., 717
Martha M., 717
Mary, 646, 698, 717
Mary L., 717
Robert P. Capt. 716, 717
Samuel, 699
CLARY
A., 207
CLASSON
Clark, 560
Mary V., 560
CLAUSEN
Mary, 630
CLAUSON
Emily, 625
Simon, 149, 557
CLAUTER
William, 211
CLAWATER
Belle, 521
Cornelius, 521
Edna, 521
Elizabeth E., 521
Forestine, 521
Jane, 521
Jennie, 521
Jessie, 521
John F., 521
Kate, 521
Louisa, 521
Mary A., 521
Ray, 521
Wade, 521
William, 147, 148, 199 200, 248, 392, 517, 521
CLAWSON
Simon, 150, 159
CLAY
A. C., 495
H., 357
CLAYSON
Charles, 535
George, 535
J. W., 535
Jane, 535
Margaret J., 535
CLEAR
Jack, 484
Jacob, 178
CLEMENSON
John, 481
CLEMENTS
James, 525
Jane, 525
John, 525
William, 525
CLEMENTSON
George, 48
Sophia, 160
CLEMMETSON
George, 48
Sophia, 160

CLEMMETSON
John, 161, 965
CLENDENNING
Myron, 732
T. C., 732
CLEVELAND
Alfred L., 110, 111
F. M., 509
William M., 110
CLIFF
C. A., Rev., 496
Nettie, 607
CLINGMAN
D. Rev., 648, 732, 733
M. Rev., 539
CLOUGH
E. E., 688
Solon C., 48
CLUTE
Lewis, 216
D. C., 510
COARD
William F. C., 208
William F. O., 216
COATES
_____, 682, 683
BOATS
W. E. and Co. 484
COBB
Amasa, 45, 46
L., 682
COE
Atilla, 697, 718
Charity, 697
Edward, 683, 693, 697
Hattie, 698
Ida, 398, 697
Ida B., 686
Isaac, 171, 696
Julia, 697
Lloyd, 521, 684
Margaret, 303
Mary, 546, 576, 697
Mary A., 521
Nathan, 161, 248, 261 268, 684, 693, 694, 696, 697, 718, 725
William, 171, 303
COFFIN
Esther, 725, 737
George, 725
Henry, 725
Mary, 725
Nathan, Mrs., 750
Peleg, 218, 725, 739
Peleg, Mrs., 725
COGSWELL
Mr., 553
COHER
Barbara, 708
COLBINE
Lucy F., 723
COLE
A., 725
A. B., 569
Ellen, Mrs., 738
Harman, 203
Herman, 219
John J., 184, 189, 190
Orsamus, 46, 48, 66, 138 246, 249, 251
COLEMAN
Edward, 204
William A., 204
COLIER
Charles, 539
COLLEY
Rev., Robert, 575
COLLINS
Brightman, 646
Col. 99, 102, 106
James, 35
John, 542
Mary Ann, 542
William M., 203, 214
COLMAN
Acting Adjutant, 207
COLOR
John, 499
COMBEST
James, 211
COMPTON
John H., 204, 207
COMSTOCK
E. J., 252
Janette, 706
CONANT and Bartolf, 585
CONAWAY
J., 147
J. M., 246
Jeremiah, 492, 495, 708
Owen, 537
CONDIT
Fred T., 195
James D., 208
CONE
Florence, 651
Isaac, 645, 647, 651
Susan, 651
CONGER
Dr. F., 579
CONKLIN
Charles A., 201, 203 214
Thaddeus, 215
CONKLING
Abner, 708
Jane J., 524
CONLEY
Frances, 574
CONNELL
Henry O., 747
CONNELLY
Lewis, 215
CONNOLLY
James B., 213
CONNOR
Amanda M., 685
Capt., 684
Eliza, 524
Henry, 684
Henry John, 685
John Henry, 685
Mary Loxly, 685
Sarah, 684
CONROAD
Elizabeth, 532
CONWAY
Ellen, 578
J., 251
Jeremiah, 150
John G., 278
CONWAY continued
Mary, 578
Mr., 567
Patrick, 578
William, 578
COOK
Amasa G., 247
Catherine E., 736
Debora, 597
Hobart, 697
J. A., 124
James, 293, 321
James A., 245, 257
Julia, 161
Juliann M., 697
Martha, 708
Mr., 299
Susannah, 697
COOKE
J. A., 123, 124, 127, 253, 518
J. A. Rev., 122
James A., 117, 120, 240, 401, 404, 688
James A., Rev., 407, 516, 697, 708
COOLEY
A., 200
A., Rev. 405, 688
Aaron, 200, 203, 226, 724
Franklin, 161
Rev., 404, 509, 695
COOPER
Alice M., 742
Angeline, 575
Edward L., 742
J.A., 731
J.A., Mrs., 742
J.C., 667, 669, 774
J.H. Mrs.,731
James, 664, 665, 666
Joshua A., 742
Levi, 575
Peter, 52, 250
William A., 742
COPLEY
William, 510
COREY
Adelbert S., 610
Eliza, 610
Ernest, 610
Hester, 610
James, 610
Lillie May, 610
Minerva, 610
Roswell F., 203, 213, 610
William, 610
CORSAW
Martin, 214
CORY
Albert, 272
R.F. Mrs, 608
Stanley, 272
Walter, 272
COSTELLO
Kate, 539
COTHREN
M. M., 251
Montgomery
M., 51, 245, 251
COTTERELL

COTTERELL
Cynthia, 273
Hattie, 273
Stephen, 273
COTTON
R. D. Rev., 689
COTTRELL
S.D., 748
COUPER
James C., 572
Mary Ann, 572
Sarah A., 572
COWEN
Amanda J., 560
Albert H., 560
Edna C., 560
Jesse, 159
Jessie, 556, 560
Joseph, 631
Lydia, 560
Nancy C., 560
COWDEN
Caroline, 721
COX
Caroline, 529
Celia, 646
Charles, 581
Daniel, 214, 580, 585
Daniel Mrs., 585
Eddie, 529
Edward, 529, 580
Edwin W., 524
Erminine B., 524
Harriet E., 630
Harvey T., 524
Jane, 657
Jane J., 524
Lester W., 524
Matilda, 529
Nathaniel, 161, 645
Rosa, 529
Roscoe, 529
Sherman, 529
Thomas, 216
William, 203, 215, 407, 524
COY
Jane, 742
Jonathan, 666
CRAFT
Mary, 555
CRAIG
A. J., 61, 247
Alex J., 49
Alexander, J., 246
E. H., 694
Elmer, Mrs., 766
CRAIN
J. W., 204, 207
CRAMER
William E., 52
CRANDALL
Edwin E., 203
John, 631, 667
CRANDELL
E., 556
CRANE
John, 202
Wright S., 214
CRARY
Ann, 572
CRARY continued
M. E., 571
Milton E., 218
CRAWFORD
Jefferson, 240
Mary, 580
Monroe, 212
Samuel, 48
Simon, 592
Thomas, 677
CRAWSKY
Grizelle, 711
CREVISTON
Ada, 596
Emaline, 596
Francis, 596
Henry, 596
James, 595, 596
Leonard, 596
Lillie, 596
Mary Jane, 596
CRISS
Mary, 721
CRITCHET
Thomas, 220
CRITCHITT
Charles E., 216
CRITTENDEN
_____, 135
CRITTENDON
A., 135, 647
CROCKER, Gen., 207
CROLL
Annie C., 659
CROMBIE
Ricker Co., 262
CRONDLE
Hiram J., 216
CROOK
Catharine, 615
Charlotte, 615
Frank, 615
John, 604, 615
Minnie, 615
Rosa A., 615
William, 604, 615
CROOKS
Ramsey, 382
CROSS
James B., 243
CROUSE
Adam, 666
Frank, 666
CROWELL
_____, 740
John, 186
Seth, 730
Zylphine, 725
CRUMBAKER
Sarah, 591
CRUME
Daniel, 688
George, 688
Mary, 517
Mary D., 161
William, 318, 688
CULVER
Arabella, 750
Bert, 753
Charles, 753
Clarence, 750
CULVER continued
Eddie, 753
Elvarus, 750
Frank, 750
Hettie, 753
Louisa, 750
Minerva, 750
Nathan, 216, 219, 744, 747, 748, 749, 750
Nellie, 753
Sibil, 753
William, 753
CUMMINGS
George W., 208, 215
Martha, 181
Nathaniel, 181, 774
S.M., 225
Seymour M., 212
William F., 215, 722
T., 208, 218
CUMMINS
J., 221
CUMRINE
Henry, 604
CUNLKINS/CAULKINS?
David, 214
CUNNINGHAM
Rev. C. N., 630
CUPPERNALL
Charles, 203
CURLEY
George, 219
Philo, 208
CURRIER
Abner, 492
Alexander, 492
Samuel, 492
CURRY
Albert U., 495
Elizabeth, 627
H.A., 627
J.W., 251, 255
John, 255, 256
John W., 495, 688
Martha, 495
Mr., 694
S.R., 495
Sarah E., 495
T.W., 252
William, 627
CURTIS
Elizabeth, 647
James W., 226
M., 747, 748
Mary, 650
Miss, 755
Perry, 244, 646
Thomas S., 144
CURTISS
M.T., 111
Perry, 214
CUSHING
Cassius J., 738
Luella G., 738
Mary, 738
William, 738
William S., 201, 203, 217, 218
CUSHMAN
A. C., 603, 607, 622, 625
Abel C., 603, 610

CUSHMAN continued
Alta 610
Elizabeth, 610
Florence, 610
James, 610
Lillian, 610
Maria J., 610
CUSTER
Eugene, 682
CUT THUMB
_____, 154, 155, 161, 162, 163
CUTE
Charles W., 216
CUTLER
Col., 202
Lysander, 201
CUTSFORTH
Mary, 703
CUTTER
Lysander, 201
CYFERT
Abraham, 138
DACH
Christian, 522
Daniel, 522
Jacob, 522
Lizzie, 522
Mary, 522
DACY
George, 405
DAGGETS
_____, 135
DAHL
Marith H., 699
DAILEY
Edward P., 213
William, 203, 206
DAINS
Andrew, 218
Catharine, 755
DALE
H. B., 248
P. J., 251
Peter J., 137, 250
DALEY
Henry F., 567
Ransom, 538
DALTON
E., 629
Eren, 215
Lydia, 629
Lysander, 208
Oscar, 629
DALY
Edson, 211
DANES
Elizabeth, 755
Hartly, 755
DANIEL
Thomas H., 214
DANIELS
Col. 226, 384
Edward, 61, 62
George W., 212
J. H. Rev., 571
James, 293
James H., 570
L. S. 220
Mr., 222
Rachel, 543
DARLING
Mason C., 36, 46, 138
DARNELL
Samuel, 208, 211
DASCEY
George, 171
DAVENPORT
George, 226
J. P., 221
James, 200, 740
Nelson, 218
William, 226
DAVENPORT
Indians, 444
DAVIDSON
Francis, 161
J. E., 110
Mary E., 533
Permelia, 669
Peyton, 742
DAVIS
A., 478
Alexander, 116
Ammon, 648
Andrew, 651
Cora F., 740
D. A., 226
Daniel, 651
David, 645, 647
E. Stacey, 740
Edmund S., 740
Edward, 516
Elizabeth, 591, 651
Ellen, 740
H. M., 495
Hannah, 651, 661
Harvey, E., 591
Henry, 608
Hulda E., 591
J. C., 147, 247
Jane, 526
Jeff, 226
Jefferson, Lieut, 382
Jenny, 757
Jesse, 520
Jesse L., 246, 262, 649, 658
John, 648, 726, 731, 734 740
John C., 729, 740
John E., 208, 215
John W., 214, 246, 658
L., 113, 202
Laura V., 658
Lavina, 651
Lawson, 201
Leonard C., 203
Lisette, 740
Lloyd E., 591
Louis, 112, 113
Lucy A., 520
M. A. Mrs., 625
Margaret, 651
Margaret J., 535
Martha A., 658
Mary E., 591
Mattie, 648
Miles G., 591
Mrs. 591
N.W., 563
Nancy, 591
DAVIS continued
Peter, 651
Phebe, 262
Romanzp, 250
Russell, 740
Samuel, 214, 591, 645, 646, 651
Sarah, 651
Sarah C., 658
Susan, 651
Susie E., 740
Thomas J., 203
Timothy, 185
V. L. Mrs., 648
Vienna T., 758
W. G., 246
Warren G, 207, 216, 658, 683, 761
William, 211, 739
William I., 591
Winfred C., 591
DAVISON
Mary Ann, 160
DAWES
R. R., 201
DAWSON
_____, 678, 680
George, 117, 321
J., 293, 294
Jeremiah M., 702
John, 303, 317, 683, 689 693, 694, 702
Lucy R., 702
Martha, 702
Mary, 705
Miles M. 702
DAY
_____, 677
Archibald, 600
Allen, 161
Daniel, 161, 600, 612
John Rev., 648
Lewis F., 213
Martin V., 203, 213
Rev., 539
Travers, 203, 204
Travis, 213
DAY-KAU-RAY
_____, 354
DAYTON
_____, 130
Abner, 574
DEAN
Baptist Ministry, 406
Dr., 293, 299
E. B., 128
Emeline, 608, 610
H. C., 683
James M., 214
James W., 214
Merritt W., 214
DEARMON
George W., 672
John P., 672
Mary A., Mrs., 672
Nancy, 672
William A., 672
DEAVER
John A., 211
DECKER
Eliza, 735

DECKER continued
Eliza J., 676
Elizabeth, 676
Henry, 676
Isaac, 139, 676
Isaac S., 127
Joseph, 676
L. R.,684, 774
Lewis R. "Dede" 676
Mary E., 161
Moses, 117, 127, 138 139, 160, 171, 311, 312, 321, 323, 408, 609, 675, 676, 704, 713, 735
Mrs. 293
Reasoner, 675
Sarah A., 676
Saul E., 117
Solomon, 12, 139, 675, 676, 694
Thomas, 139, 227
Thomas J., 203, 215, 676 775
Westfall, 138, 171
DECORI
_____, 371, 373, 374, 380, 381
DEERE
Elizabeth, 526
John, 526
DE FER
_____, 129
DEFREES
Electa S., 122
Jefferson, 580
Martha J., 122
Minerva, 593
Nelson, 171, 588
T. J., 122, 123, 127, 139, 140, 160, 184, 185 240, 243, 266, 267, 405 681, 684
Thomas, 122, 401, 418, 421
Thomas J., 129, 139, 142 143, 266, 311, 321, 322
Wallace W., 593
DE HART
M., 753
DE JEAN
A. W., 149, 150
Alfred H., 634
Ann C., 634
Anson W., 630, 631, 634
Charles, 634
Juliet, 634
Polly, 634
Thomas, 629, 631, 634, 666, 774
DEKAURAY
_____, 94
DE LA BARRE
_____, 82
DE LACY
Patrick, 731, 734
Thomas, 216
DELANEY
Emma, 515
Gideon, 515
DELANEY
James Rev., 204
Jesse, 515
Robert, 515
Sarah, 515
DE LAP
_____, 528
A. O., 585
Ambrose, 647, 729
Charles W., 208, 215
Dr., 318
George W., 216
Harriet, 617
Hiram, 641, 776
Rev., 509
Robert, 216
T. L., 748, 751, 774
Thomas L., 219
W. F., 688
William M., 203
DE LARNE
John P., 279, 280
DELLE
Frank, 482
DE LIGNERY
Marchemd, 23
DE LOURIGNEY
_____, 23
DEMINGS
Adeline, 616
Jedediah, 616
DENNIS
George, 717, 718
Henry, 718
Herman, 718
James, 718
Lucinda, 718
Mary, 718
Nancy J., 718
Sarah J., 717
William, 718
William M., 54
DENNISON
George, 180
Henry, 180
James, 180
Josiah, 179, 180
Warren, 179, 180
William, 204
DENONVILLE
_____, 82
DE NOYELLE
Capt., 23
DENTON
F. A., 684
DERBY
Eliza, 293
Mr., 299
DERR
Charles, 593
Eli, 111, 112
Louisa, 593
Samuel M., 111
DERRY
Samuel M., 111
DE TONTY
Henry, 22
DETTOVE
Mr. and Mrs., 478
DEURST
DEURST continued
Mr., 172, 173
DEUSTER
Peter V., 47
DE VAUDREUIL
Marquis, 23
DE VILLIERS
Neyon, 23
DEVLIN
_____, 682
DEVORSE
Sarah J., 651
DEWEY
and Barber, 189
Governor, 47, 174, 245
Mary E., 595
Nelson, 35, 36, 43, 126, 127
Sarah, 596
DE WITT
Arvilla, 723
Colonel, 723
Delia, 723
Eva, 723
Grant, 723
Hannah, 723
James, 723
John, 208, 215, 723
John, Dr., 557
Levi, 723
Thomas P., 215, 722, 723
DIBBLE
C. F., 203
DICKEMAN
William W., 203
DICKSON
Hiram, 497, 499
J. S., 148
James, 497
John, 497
John S., 203, 210, 487, 499, 500
Mr., 453
Orrille, 215
Orrin, 215
Robert, 30
DICKWORTH
Jane, 558
DIDIOT
Henry, 200, 202, 212
DIDIVT
Nicholas, 540
DIDRICKSON
C., 721
DIELHMAN
W. W., 207
DILL
D. J., 201
DIVIE
Eleph, 525
DIXON'S
_____, 95
DIXON
Capt., 100
James, 591
James C., 218
Jesse, 668
John S., 249
Luther S., 48, 244, 245, 247

DIXON continued
Miranda, 668
Nancy, 591
Samuel D., 111
Seward, 668
William, 664, 668
DIXSON
John S., 585
DOBSON
Margaret, 612
Robert, 612
DODGE
_____, 682
Darius, 218
Dr., 270
Gen., 100, 101, 103, 105, 345, 354, 374, 387, 388
Governor, 40, 420
Henry, 47, 137
Henry Col. 33, 35, 36, 41, 96, 98, 99, 102
Jacob, 212
Samuel Rev. 688
DOENER
Louisa, 750
DOERR
Adam, 593
Anna, 593
Elvira M., 189
John, 593
Susan, 593
Susanna, 593
DOLEN
William, 498, 502
DOLLIVER
Phebe A., 598
DONALDSON
A. B., 141
Allen, 646, 649
DONAHUE
Hugh, 497
DOOLITTLE
James R., 47
Rev., 509
DORCHESTER
Lord, 453
DORWIN
Viruz W., 208
DOTY
James, D., 137
Tov., 32, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 94, 419
DOUGLAS
George, 202
George W., 201, 212
Joshua, 208
S. A., 52
Stephen, 244
DOUGLASS
Charles 681, 682
E.D., 571
Elisha D., 567, 569, 572
Eliza J., 665
James A., 215
Mary J., 572
Otho, 665
DOUSMAN
Col., 311, 726
H.L., 116
DOW
Neal, 52, 251
DOWELL
Jemima, 632
DOWHOWER
Farm, 116
DOWINE
William, 212
DOWNER
James, 48
Jason, 246
DOWNEY
Pruda, 626
DOWNHOWER
David, 211
DOWNIE
John, 181, 182
William, 203, 204, 207
DOWNING
H. F., 221
DOWNS
Daniel L. 52
William H., 208
DOWSE
Thomas, 736
DOXRUD
Brothers, 682
DOYLE
Peter, 44, 249
DRAKE
Benjamin, 611
Blanche, 612
Elmer G., 612
Epsie E,. 612
Frank H., 617
George L. 617
Janette, 220, 617
Jesse O., 612
L. C., 774
Lester, 617
Lewis, 617
Lyman C., 617
Matilda A., 611
Mr. and Mrs., 293, 297, 302
Phineas, 293, 297, 308
Reuben, 605, 608, 6q1
Reuben G., 213
Rutson H., 608, 617
Sarah, 611
Sophia C., 622
DRAPER
Lyman C., 49, 243, 244
DREW
Edwin, 210
DRIGGS
J. S., 200, 203
DRISKAL
Obadiah, 631
DRISKILL
Obadiah, 220
DRUM
George M., 213, 225
DRUMMOND
Thomas, 49
DUBISSON
M., 23
DU BUGUE
Julien, 803
DUDGEON
R., 688
DUDLEY
Miss, 289
DUFFY
Elizabeth, 742
DUFT
Mathilda, 540
DU LAP
Harriet, 517
DU LHUT (DULUTH)
_____, 87
DUNDLETH
Dr. J. R., 270
DUNLAP
Brother, 679
Dr., 271
Emily, 161
Hillier, 684
Joseph L., 213
R., 127
Rufus, 171, 184, 185, 676, 678, 684, 774
W. W., 250, 694
Warren, 684, 686, 693, 774
DUNN
Anna E., 758
Cyarles, 35, 247
Francis J., 171
Frank I., 35, 486
Judge, 244
Mary J., 758
Michael, 758
Parker C., 208
DUNING
Thomas, 607
DUPEE
Francis, 604
Henry, 604
Sarah, 220
DUNWIDDIE
William, 511
DUPU
Francis, 213
Henry H., 213
DURAL
J. J., 246
DURKEE
Charles, 46, 47
George, 211
DUSENBERRY
Eleanor, 633
DUSH
Ann, 643
Jacob, 643
Mary, 643
DWYER
Timothy, 495, 497
DYER
Charles E., 49
Emma, 630
John, 630
Mirian F., 632
DYRE
Mrs. Ellen, 731
W., 734
Woodbridge, 726, 731
DYSON
C., 498, 504
EAELUS
Henry W., 218
EAKMAN
Charlie H., 672

EARLY
Capt., 98
EASLEY
William, 111
EASTMAN
Ben C., 46, 138
Ebenezer, 668
Ebenezer S., 665
Edith, 669
Eliza J., 669
G., 509
George H., 669
Grace, 669
Hannah, 738
Harvey J., 669
J. B., 667
John B., 665, 667, 668 669
L. E., 774
Martha, 669
Miranda, 669
Permelia, 669
EATON
A. H., 815
A. L., 112, 113
B. L., 112
Henry L., 249
EATSON
Everett, 171
ECKEES
Rebecca, 706
ECKHARDT
and Co., 731
Eva, 598
George, 729, 734
Jacob, 149, 250, 598 734
Jacob Jr., 137, 149
Michael, 221
ECKHART
Fred, 250, 683, 694, 742
J., 251
EDSON
Almira, 612
Caroline, 612
Dora J., 612
Ella, 612
Guy, 612
Margaret, 612
Nora May, 612
Rhoda, 612
Samuel, L., 612
Seth, 221, 660, 612
Susan, 612
William, 612
EDWARDS
Anna M., 572
Elias, 572
EGAL
Mary, 477
EGGEN
P., 694
EGLESTON
Anna, 551
Belle, 551
Elen, 551
Even, 551
Gena, 551
Halvor, 551
Hannah, 551
Ole, 551
EGLESTON continued
Thomas, 551
EILSON
Elling, 518
Even, 552
ELDREDGE
Charles A., 46
ELLEFSON
Chris, 250, 252, 517
Christian, 137, 149, 150, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 525
Lena, 525
ELLERTSON
Eva, 598
ELLIOT
Anson, 534
Mary, 266, 528
ELLIOTT
John C., 679
John W., 214
Sophronia, 679
ELLIS
A. Mrs., 289
A. G., 247
Albert, G., 36
Andrew, 556
Betsy C., 590
Caleb, 226
Caleb C., 203
E. Holmes, 247
Edwin, 641
Eliza, 641
Matthew, 509
ELLSWORTH
Mrs. Rebecca, 708
ELMENDORF
John F., 219
ELSTHLOST
C. F., 693
Franklin, 201, 202, 216
ELY
Dr., 317, 683
Edgar, 682
EMBERSON
Andrew, 477
EMERSON
Polly, 740
EMETT
Charles 214
EMMONDS
Charles, 568
EMMONS
Bradley G., 183
EMONS
Albert, 210
Bradley, 212
END
George, 52
ENFIELD
_____, 735
ENGERBRETSON
Andrew, 507
ENGH
Engebret, 478
ENGLE
Martha C., 663
Peter H., 35,36
Thomas E., 208, 216
ENGLER
ENGLER continued
Anna, 564
Christian, 564
ENGLES
Christian, 212
ENNY
A., 289, 290
ENO
_____, 176, 508
E., 509
Edgar, 137, 149, 211, 249 508
Gilmond, 214
Mr., 508
ENOCHSON
E., 722
Elizabeth, 703
Enoch, 147, 161, 695, 703
ENOS
Elihu, 52
Matea, 161
ENSIGN
George, 694
ERGENAS
Lars Christianson, 775
ERICKSON
Brea, 505
Christina, 658
Louis, 217
Marie, 775
N.N., 252
Nels, 551
Peter, 214, 215
Simon, 210
Thorger, 210
ERICSON
Johanna, 758
Ole, 525
ERIKSON
John, 627
ERLANDSON
Halvor, 651
ERVING
Samuel R., 220
ERYALRAN
Father James, 21
ESLER
George, 556,
George N., 213
Henry, 556
Jesse, 556
Governor, 61
Lucius, 43, 44, 60, 245, 246, 247
FAIRMAN
James, 201
FAKNER
Jane, 772
FALES
Joseph, 112
Joseph E., 111
FALK
Frank R., 252
FALLOWS
S., 248
Samuel, 49, 248
FANCHER
R., 688
FARMER
_____, 129

FARNAM
Charles S., 208
FARNHAM
Adelia, 630
Orsumus, 214
FARNSWORTH
Samuel, 823
FARQUASSON
H. D., 761
FARRAND
James C., 208
FARRELL
Mike, 537
FARWELL
L. J., 54, 55, 240
Leonard J., 43, 128
FARYUHARSON
H. D., 208
FAVOR
Ambrosia C., 706
Androsia, 593
Arie, 594
Augusta, 593
Augusta C., 589
Cecil P., 706
Cecilia, 706
Constantine A., 706
Daniel W., 593, 705
Electa, 593
Elizabeth, 593
Fannie, 594
Feletus, 593
Franklin C., 706
Isaac S., 593
Jane, 593
Jerome, 593
Jonathan, 589, 593, 705
Loren D., 706
Lucius U., 706
Lucy, 594
Mary, 589, 593
Mary E., 706
Mattie R., 706
Minerva, 593, 705
Oscar D., 706
Philetus, 705
William True, 706
FAVORS
Daniel, 585
FEARN
E. F., 202
Edward, 216
Edwin T., 201
FENNELL
William, 216
FENTON
Daniel G., 136, 137
Dewitt C., 201, 203
Jane, 541
FERGUSON
_____, 135
B. F., 718
John A., 208
R. L., 718
Robert, 219
Robert L., 208, 216
William, 718
FERRETT
Hattie, 398
FERRILL
Isiah, 207, 215
FERRIS
N. S., 245
FETTY
Mrs. Burton, 738
FETZLAFF
Augustus, 212
FIELD
Albert, 193, 321, 563, 567, 569, 570, 571, 573, 575
Alexander P.,
Angeline, 573
Bracket, 573
Ella L., 573
Marietta, 573, 575
W. S., 191, 694
Walter S., 192, 193
William W., 45, 51
FIELDS
Capt., 345
Abner, 344, 353
Albert, 165
FIFIELD
Lt. Gov., 775, 776, 778
S.S., 252
Samuel S., 44, 45
FILLMORE
Millard, 52
FINCH
Earl P., 45
FINE
C., 571
C. F., 567
Rodolph, 201, 202, 212
FINLEY
_____, 360
Bridget, 614
FINNELL
William, 744
William F., 216
FINSTAD
Christian, 553
Edward, 553
Ella, 553
Hans, 553
Hellena, 553
Jane, 553
Lars, 553
Mebin B., 553
FISH
Anna, 496
Charles, 217
Elizabeth, 642
Mary A., 698
Nancy, 220, 623
Rosella, 657
Samuel, 203, 216, 621, 623, 624
Stephen A., 621, 623
William, 747
FISHER
Capt., 89
Eliza, 519, 520
Henry M., 28
James, 136, 137
Judge, 89, 90
Mrs., 90
George A., 204
FISK
Lucinda, 219
Samuel, 207
FITCH
Rev. J. E., 406, 695
Rev. James E., 406, 688
FITZGERALD
Garret M., 136
FITZPATRICK
Edward, 11
M. H., 150
FLANAGAN
Bridget, 615
Edmund P., 615
Josephn 615
Maria, 615
Nellie, 615
Thomas, 614, 615
William, 615
FLECK
Marion F., 213
FLETCHER
Austin, 213
Bardett, 203
Burdett, 213
FLICK
John, 581,
Mary, 581
Sophis, 160
Solomon, 581
FLINT
Edwin, 172, 175, 177, 243, 247
FLOWER
Frank A., 67
FLOYD
George, 35
FOLSOM
S. P., 113
FOOTE
Oscar E., 208
FOPPER
_____, 176
Anna Barbara, 533
Barbara, 533
Casper, 211
John, 149, 527, 533
Mrs., 533
FORBES
Arthur, 563
Ellen J., 563
Isabel, 563
Jesse, 563
Maggie, 563
Margaret, 563
Mr., 567
Robert, 563
Stewart, 563, 568
Stewart A., 563
FORD
Ira H., 204
Nelson, 559
Reuben W., 111, 112, 113
FOREAKER
George W., 215
William H., 208
FOREMAN
Charles, 612
Elizabeth, 612
James, 604, 612
Jane M., 612
Margaret, 612
Martha E., 612
Romania E., 612

FOREMAN continued
Rudolph, 213, 612
Sarah A., 612
FORST
Tamgon, 613
FORSYTH
_____, 204
Charles R., 211
Eliza, 194
H. C., 192, 694, 696
Henry Clay, 192, 194, 195
Hester, 592
Joseph, 592
Maj. Thomas, 339
William, 194
FORSYTHE
Elijah, 203
FORTHUN
Knute, 647
FORTNER
Gunelda, 651
FORTNEY
and Peterson, 526
FORTNEY
Anna, 611
Anna Maria, 611
Arne, 521
C. C., 517, 518
Carrie, 517
Catharine, 612
Christian, 521
Christian O., 517
Christina, 521, 612
Christine, 517
Christopher, 517
Cordelia, 522
Cornelia, 612
Daniel, 522
Daniel T., 526, 611
Eliza, 517
Gerhard Olaus, 611
Gustave, 517
Hans, 521, 612
John, 521, 612
Kari, 611
Katherine, 521
Knute, 518
Margaret, 517
Martha, 612
Mary, 612
Nils Elias, 611
O. C., 604
Ole, 521, 612
Sophia, 612
Susan, 521
Thomas, 521
Torger, 611
Torger O., 518, 522
FOSDICK
Albert E., 201, 216, 738
Byron N., 738
Henry, 729
Henry A., 201, 216, 738
Lucy G., 738
Willard, 724
William, 738
FOSTER
A. Rev., 407, 688
Diantha, 696
FOSTER continued
Emily, 696
James, 117, 123, 171, 215 220, 321, 404, 677, 688 696
James H., 522
Joel, 251, 252
Robert, 123
Silas, 696
FOURT
Charles, 647
Charles S., 219, 661
Edgar, 661
Edwin, 661
Franklin, 661
Hannah, 661
Ida E., 661
Lavinia, 661
Lucinda T., 661
Minnie M., 661
FOUST
Charles S., 216
FOWLER
_____, 679
Keeler and Co., 280
Charles, 577
Charlotte, 577
E. S., 280
Maria, 510
FOX
Abijah, 201, 212
Almira, 608
Catherine, 757
Irvin, 150, 156, 157 158
J. B., 572
J. O., 221
James, 604
John, 563
Samuel, 212
Uriah, 567
William, 201, 202, 212, 528, 774
William H. Dr., 767
Indians, 444
FRANCIS
Allen, 213
FRANK
Jacob, 435, 455, 456
Joseph, 539
Col. M., 394
FRANKS
Jacob, 822
FRANSEN
Carrie, 757
Christian, 757
Clara, 757
Jenette, 757
Laura, 757
Zena, 757
FRATT
_____, 779
Michael, 252
N. D., 222, 764
FRAZER
Judge, 38
Mr., 89, 90, 91
William C., 35, 36
FRAZIER
Anna, 596
Anna L., 591
FRAZIER continued
Charles R., 591
Dora H., 591
Elijah S., 204, 213
Frank E., 591
Luella J., 591
Mary B., 591
Minta M., 591
Plume, 591
Raymond R., 591
Samuel L., 591
William, 137, 149, 158 159, 247, 249, 251, 586, 588, 591, 596
William S., 591
FREEMAN
G. Y., 256
Louisa, 641
FREMONT
_____, 130
John C., 52
FRENCH
Bertha, 740
Charles, 211
Elizabeth, 740
Lizzie, 740
Mary, 740
Minnie J., 740
N. E., 731
Nellie, 740
Noah E., 740
Noble P., 740
Ruth, 740
Sophia, 740
FRENTSON
Regina, 507
FRETWELL
Mr., 142, 294
Oliver P., 201
Thomas, 143, 144, 160, 199, 203, 204, 215, 244
Mrs. Thomas, 307
FRIES
Susan, 541
FRISBY
Alice, 767
Atty. Gen., 765
L. F., 44, 778
Leander F., 52, 249, 252
FRITCHIE
Charles, 563
Mr., 573
FRITNELL
O. P., 214
FROHAWK
Daniel, 226
FRONTENAC
_____, 21
FROST
P. W., 564
William P., 578
FRY
Col. 99, 101, 102, 106
FRYE
John, 658
Sarah C., 658
FULLER
C. A., 538
Daniel D., 732

FULLER continued
John, 624
Margaret, 739
Mercy P., 732
William, 748
FULMER
Joseph, 147, 630
FULTON
D. C. Maj., 762
David C., 249
George, 721
FURBER
Joseph W., 136
FURGESON
H. H., 248
Hiram, 725
William, 725
FURMAN
George W., 216
Liberty, 742
GADOLA
Barnard, 528
GAGE
Martin R., 208, 250
Sidney R., 731
GAGNIER
Rigeste, 92
Rigeste Madame, 92, 94
Rijeste, 348, 351, 354
GAINES
Cornelia, 713
Edward, 713
Eugene, 683, 713
Levi R., 713
Theodore, 713
GALE
George, 144, 173, 174 175, 200, 243, 310, 315
GALES
U., 112, 113
GALLAGHER
Annie, 636
Bridget, 636
John, 636
GALLEY
Lewis O., 568
GALSTAD
Lars, 695
Lars H., 480
GAMBOIS
Euphanie, 588
GANATT
Noah, 215
GANDER
Joseph G., 203, 204
GANNON
P. K., 247
BARBEE
James, 212
GARBER
James, 204
GARDNER
_____, 304
Amanda, 720
Daniel, 171
John, 243, 253, 293, 294 689, 778
GARDNER
and Wareham, 147
GARETT
GARETT continued
John, 703
GARFIELD
James A., 52, 251, 689 764, 766, 779
GARLAND
Maj.,336
GARNES
Levi, 294
GARRELL
Theodore, 211
GARRETT
Clarietta, 703
Elizabeth, 703
Jesse, 702, 703
Jesse Mrs., 707
John, 208, 214
Lorena, 703
Mary J., 703
Noah, 204, 703, 707
Pennel, 703
William, 703, 722
GARVERS
Mary Jane, 596
GATES
U., 113
GAUDY
Phebe, 514
GAUPER
Alfred, 662
Amelia, 662
Elida, 662
Ole, 649, 662, 774
Robert Oscar, 662
GAY
J. D., 401
GAYNOR
J. A., 252
GEDDES
Edward D., 613
Ella, 613
Fiannah, 613
Henry, 613
John Irving, 613
Isabell, 613
James E., 613
Julia A., 613
Laura Ann, 613
Nellie, 613
Rhoda A., 613
Rosa, 613
Tamzon, 613
William, 604, 608, 613
GEHON
Francis, 35
GEISER
Phillip, 216
GEMENHARDT
George, 552
GENTIL
J. P., Perrott, 420
GENTRY
Capt. 99, 106
GEORGE,
Lockwood, 213
GERMAN
Thomas, 773
GERTSEN
Jens, 693
GESS
GESS continued
Anna Barber, 533
Barbara, 533
GETTER
Albert, 660
Benjamin, 525
Bina, 660
Carrie, 525
Cornelia, 525
Ellen, 525
Ferdinand, 521, 525
George, 660
Helen J., 525
Howard, 660
John, 525
Margaret, 521, 525
Mary, 660
Robert,660
Samantha, 525
Willard, 660
William, 215, 220, 525, 659, 660
GETTING
August, 553
GETTY
Elizabeth, 666
Joseph, 664, 666
William Joseph, 666
GHEEN
Mary, 632
GIANERA
Jacob, 211
GIBBS
Adeline, 616
Alfred, 657
Charlie, 567
Clara, 657
Edith, 657
Frances J., 687
Harrison, 657
Herbert, 657
J. S., 220
Jane, 657
John, 657
John S, 219
Lindley, 657
Lucy, 657
Mary, 657
Rosella, 657
Ruth E.,616
Simeon, 657
GIBSON
Mr., 683
Daniel J., 215
Hon. F. L., 765
William J., 137
GIDDINGS
David, 252
GIESER
Philip, 208
GIFT
A. J., 492
GILBERT
Samuel, 420
GILBERTSON
Berut, 484
Mrs. E. C., 490
Matilda, 490
GILBRONSON
Agnetta, 505
Helga, 505

GILBRONSON continued
Helgar, 505
Mary, 505
GILES
William, 509
GILL
Mr., 321
Arthur, 208, 211
Charles R., 45, 246, 247
Eugene C., 213
Marion, 269
GILLETT
A. D., 497
A. W., 161, 720
Britton L., 208, 215
C. F., 293, 722
Cyrus, 171, 677, 722, 774
Cyrus F., 127, 143, 161
L. C., 176, 177
Leonard C., 161
Lydia, 293, 297
Miss, 302
Mr., 294, 297, 310, 688
R. P., 175, 240, 720, 721 774
Ransom, 143
Ransom P., 161, 171, 321
Rufus, 127, 138, 258, 321 677
Thomas, 117, 123, 321, 401, 683
William, 321
GILLETTE
Abram, 321
Jerome, 321
GILLINGHAM
Thomas, 608
GILLMAN
James W., 208, 660
Lurinda May, 660
Mary Candis, 660
Maud, 660
Walter,660
Willie Burton, 660
GILSON
Franklin L., 45
GITCHIE
Iauba, 357
GIVENS
Mary, 539
GJERDRUM
Christina, 718
GLADDEN
Elizabeth G., 591
GLASBURN
Henry, 603
BLASSBURN
Alfred, 115
GLASSFORD,
j. b., 677
GLEN
Rebecca J., 161
GLENAN
Richard, 666
GLENN
Anna M., 721
Clarinda, 703
George, 721
Isaac, 703, 720, 721
Isaiah, 250
GLENN continued
Jason, 703
John B., 210
Lewis B., 219
Minnie, 721
Minnie B., 721
Preston, 721
Rosetta, 721
Theophilus, 721
GLIDDEN
A. R., 564
GLOVER
John, 769
Joshua, 55
GOCHENOUR
Blanche, 718
Emily, 718
Harrison Dr., 718
GODFREY
_____, 322, 726
Bros., 117
M., 200
Michael, 312
GODFRY
Joseph, 312, 401
GOECHENEUR
Dr., 683
GOER
Rosa, 626
GOLDEN
Rev. T. C., 208
GOLDRICH
John M., 265
GOMAN
Eugene, 220
GOOD
Mrs., 293, 299
John, 177
Rev., 509
Rev. Josephus, 667
Sarah, 280
William, 704
William H., 556
GOODE
Alice, 301
Anna, 408
Elizabeth, 689
Ex Sheriff, 176
Mr., 310
W. H., 140, 146, 199
William, 261
William H., 140, 244, 311
GOODELL
E. S., 683, 693, 694, 696, 706
Janette, 706
Lavinia, 65
Merchant, 706
Myron, 520
Nancy A., 520
GOODNOUGH
Mrs., 751
H. H., 751
GOODWIN
John M., 201
S., 203
GORDAN
James L., 216
GORDEN
James C., 211
GORDON
Alice, 257
J. H., 684
James C., 219
John, 693
John H., 257
Robert M., 208
GORMAN
Johanna, 578
Lemuel, 531
GORRELL
Lt. James, 24
GORSLINE
Alexander, 215, 693
Mary, 523
S. H., 694
GOSLING
H. C., 250, 267
Henry, 211
Thomas J., 116, 600
GOTT
Florence, 269
Helen, 269
Lydia, 269
Marion, 269
W. A., 693
William A., 208, 215, 761
William A. Dr., 269
GOULD
Joseph, 740
Sophia, 740
GRAFF
Dora, 712
GRAHAM
_____, 132, 765, 778
Alex, 211
Alexander, 201
Alfred B., 588
Amda, 588
Anna M., 588
Baker, 117, 580, 696
Carson, 181, 184, 190, 191, 192, 195, 246, 248 250, 266, 267, 301, 677, 693, 694
Casandrew, 580
Catharine, 696
Columbus, 588
Duncan, 351, 353
Eleanor, 256
Emily, 696
Euphanie, 588
Frances, 592
Irwin M., 588
Jefferson, 580
John, 117, 122, 123, 208, 213, 256, 315, 311, 321 401, 580, 581, 585, 588 720
John H., 203, 204
Josie, 533
Judge, 161, 176, 284, 317, 737
Lambert, 585
Lamech, 580, 581, 585
Lameh, 588, 589
Lemach, 117, 220
Lemick, 171
Lewis, 161, 171, 216
Lyons, Mrs., 580
Malcolm, 284

GRAHAM continued
Mary, 580, 581, 588
Mary A., 687
Mary M., 588
Milan, 217
Mrs., 684
Napoleon, 111, 112
Reasoner, 580
Robert, 49, 249, 252
Robert E., 204, 207, 215
S., 143
Samuel, 143, 144, 621, 623, 624
Susan Mrs. 301
Thomas, 117, 580, 581
Vallie, 580
William, 588
GRAHAM
and Berry, 585
GRANT
_____, 263
Pres., 190
U. S., 247, 248
Ulysses S., 52, 729
GRAVES
_____, 176, 182
Charles W., 192, 194, 195
Earl W., 195
Eno., 176
Ida, 195
Lewis W., 195
Ray, 195
Sarah, 624
GRAW
Peter, 478
GRAY
Alexander, T., 44
Caroline M., 219
Elizabeth, 636
Eva, 636
Emertt, 636
Frank, 636
James, 636
John S., 204, 210
Hamilton S., 247
Hannah J., 590
Leroy, 636
Lucy, 636
Matthew, 590
Richard, 203
Samuel W., 629, 635
GRAYSOLON
Daniel, 87
GREEK
William E., 219
GREELEY
Andrew J., 212
Ephriam D., 212, 219
Horace, 52, 248
GREEN
Amos, 304
Amos W., 711
C. A., 201, 221
Capt. 225
Chester A., 201, 203
Cora, 739
Elder, 557
Emily Ann, 189
George F., 208, 216
GREEN continued
H., 293
Jesse, 700, 711
John E., 215
Levador, 216
Lucinda, 757
Mary E., 711
O. Corporal, 202
Old May, 304
Phebe, 218
Philander, 401
S. W., 774
Samuel 607
GREENE
Rossie, 742
GREENMAN
Almira, 534
Benjamin, 204, 210
J. W., 147, 254, 693
John, 528
John W., 137, 210, 246 249
GREEVE
Herman, 294
GREGORY
G. W., 281
J. C., 765
Lawrence, 514
Nellie, 514
U., 222
Uriah, 140, 141, 142
GREVE
Mr., 706
H., 199, 679
Herman, 146, 294
GREY
Samuel W., 214
GREYSOLON
Daniel, 22
GRIBBLE
Irwin, 213
John, 605
GRIER
Elizabeth, 617
GRIFFIN
G., 246
G. W., 247, 255
George P., 214
George W., 317
John, 501
GRIFFITH
Peter A., 251
GRIGNON
Augustin, 383
GRILLEY
Henry, 212
Norris, 212
GROER
E., 758
GROESBECK
Louis, 213
Philander S., 213
Stewart, 213
GROSS
John A., 522
Lizzie, 522
GROSSE
Rev. H., 497
GROSSMAN
A., 682
GROUHE
GROUHE continued
Friedrike, 543
GROVES
Asa E., 702
Benjamin F., 214
C. W., 251
Eli M., 214
Eliza, 623
Elizabeth, 702
Frederick, 621, 623
Frederick M., 623
H. S., 701
Hannah, 161
Harriet, 623
Hattie I., 594
I. M., 594
Isaac, 582, 591
Isaac N., 214, 220
James F., 594
James S., 221, 225
John H., 623
John L., 215
Jonas, 621, 623
Josiah S., 214
J. W., 701, 702
LeRoy M., 594
Louie, 702
M. F., 732
Mary E., 594
Mary Jane, 623
Mathias, 665
McDowell, 225
Olive E., 623
Ottosia A., 594
Rachel, 591, 594
Rachel E. 701
Regina, 701
Sarah R., 665
William C., 214, 623, 625
GROW
J. C., 646
Justice, 649
Lewis F., 208
GRUBB
J. W., 180
Jasper W., 215
Perley, 208
B., 209, 215
GRUBBS
John, 603
GRUER
Capt., 106
GRUNE
Chauncey A., 216
GUDGEN
Arza, 219
GUENTHER
Richard, 44, 47, 250, 251
Treasurer, 765
GUIGNAS
Louis Ignetius, 87
GUIRT
Elizabeth, 161
GUIST
Causie M., 558
Claudie J., 558
Cleason B., 204, 215
Cynthia J., 558
Edith, 557
Elizabeth, 609
Frederick, 217

GUIST continued
Infant, 558
Isiah, 181
John, 557
Mary, 558, 609
Mary E., 557
Robert E., 558
GULBRANDSON
Ben., 161
GULORD
Henry O., 480
GULLORD
Amiel, 551
Caroline, 551
Charles, 551
Joel, 551
Ole Peterson, 551
Peter, 551
GURLEY
Benjamin B., 761
GUSCATTI
Albert, 531
Ferdinand, 527, 531
GUSCETTI
Catharine, 532
Ferdinand, 532
Juliett, 532
Mary, 532
Matthew, 532
HABRICH
Carl, 243
HACKNER
Rev. W., 497
HADLEY
Henry N., 208
Henry W., 214
Joseph, 215
Moses, 214
Moses E., 208
HAFLICH
Alice A., 573
Elizabeth, 573
Elizabeth M., 573
Henry, 573
Jacob, 573
Jacob, Z., 573
Mary B., 573
Sarah J., 573
HAGE
E. P., 560
Engebret P. 560
Erland P. 560
Marit P., 560
HAGEN
John, 552
HAGERMAN
Calvin C., 212
John C., 556
Laura Ann, 613
HAGGERTY
David, 213
HAILAND
John, 203
HALCOMB
Rev., 509
HALDIMAND
Gen., 453
HALE
Anna, 606
D. B., 606, 617
Daniel B., 603
HALE continued
Ester A., 161
John P., 52
Nathan, 213
Nelson D., 208, 211
HALEY
Joseph C., 113
HALL
and Rogers, 607
_____, 98
Ananias, 712
Angleine, 572
Ann, 716
Catharine, 615
Daniel, 45
Dr., 715
Elizabeth, 700
George, 711
Harry, Mrs., 496
Herman D., 641
James, 63
John, 712
Martha, 524
Martha A., Mrs., 711, 712
Misses, 97
Phebe, 712
Phebe A., 712
Ralph, 147, 524, 700 711
Ruth, 609
Sargeant, 714
Sylvester, 712
William, 528
William F., 204
HALLENBECK
William C. 210
HALLIDAY
Mr., 360
HALLINGSTAD
Charles, 499
Ole, 492
HALVARSON
Rev. H., 552
HALVERSON
Neri, 775
Susan, 161
HALVORSEN
Anne Amudsdatter, 775
H. Rev., 695, 747
HALVORSON
Peder, 695
HAMAR
Chantey, 217
HAMILTON
Alnudia, 527
Catharine, 585, 590
Charles A., 48
Col., 372
Comentna Alice, 590
D., 271
Elizabeth Ann, 471, 472
Emla, 527
Eveline, 567
George G. Rev., 689
George W., 672
Irila, 527
Isaac, 586
Isabel, 528
Isabell, 527
J. I. Dr., 270
James, 567
HAMILTON continued
James Mathew Col., 472
Jenett, 527
Laomi Wilber, 590
Mary A., 672
Mary Lucy, 590
Mattie Leona, 590
Melzana Loretta, 590
N. W. Maj., 527
Seth, 580, 590
Seth Lorin, 590
William S., Col., 344
HAMMER
Eddie, 570
Eliza, 570
Emma, 194, 540, 570
Josephine, 540, 570
Mabel, 540
Mathilda, 540
Minnie, 570
Otto, 540, 569, 570, 571
Otto F., 540
Otto Sr., 570
R., 571
Robert, 540, 570
HAMMOND
Addie Belle, 716
Alice Ann, 716
Alice P., 716
Ann, 716
Charles C., 572
Cora Estella, 716
Eleanor S., 716
Elizabeth, 716
Elizabeth Ann, 716
Ida Mary, 716
John J., 716
Lydia M., 716
Miss, 289
Oliver S., 716
Sally L., 572
William, 716
HANCHETT
Clara E., 280
Luther, 46, 138, 244
Mary, 702
Sanford, 624
William F., 208, 215
HANCOCK
Abner, 608
David, 216
George W. Jr., 226
Irena, 608
Winfield S., 52, 251
HANDSON
Peter, 212
HANEY
Alice, 742
James H., 742
HANGE
Loren L., 214
Ludwig L. H., 214
HANGEN
Nils P., 252
HANK
Angeline, 640
Henry, 640
HANLAN
Rev. Joseph, 570
HANLIN

HANLIN continued
Rev. Joseph, 567
HANSBERRY
Joseph, 538
M., 150
Mathias, 149
Mathius, 540
HANSBURY
James M., 564
Joseph, 536
Lydia, 564
Morgan, 571
HANSDATTER
Johannah E., 161
HANSE
Amos H., 210
HANSON
and son, 484
A., 538
Andrew, 597
Ann, 161, 723, 758
B., 484
Caroline, 758
Carrie, 487
Charley G., 492
Charles Mathias, 597
Christen, 695
Christopher, 507
Clara, 758
Ellen Louise, 597
Elisa, 597
Emma, 478
Evan, 487
Gustave, 723
H., 506, 507, 774
Hagbarth Rev., 478
Hannah M., 492
Hans, 492, 497, 505, 616, 723, 758
Hans Engebret, 597
Hans O., 210
Henry O., 498
Ida, 492, 723, 758
Ingeborg, 507
Isaac, 478
Johanes, 487
John, 723
John M., 478
Karen, 492
Lars, 486
Lewis, 723, 758
Lewis M., 210
Louis, L., 487
M.N., 158
Maren O., 492
Marion O., 616
Martha, 478
Mary, 758
Minnie Helena, 597
Nels, 483, 484, 487, 616
Ole, 690
Ole G., 695
Otto, 487
Peter, 153, 154, 156, 157, 210, 492, 498,
Soren, 519
HANZLIK
Wenzel G., 212
HARDIN
Thomas, 606
HARDING
E. H., 184, 191
John, 202, 248
John F., 201, 214
Sidney, 161
HARELTON
Ira, 542
HAREN
A. L., 112, 113
HARKNESS
Abbie, 556
Abigail, 161
J. P., 162
James, 555
HARLAND
John, 201
HARNDEN
Jonathan, 641
HARNESS
Amanda, 667
Jesse, 751, 752
Rebecca, 667
HARORDEN
Emma J., 639
HARPER
Elizabeth, 649
Margaret, 591
Thomas, 591
HARRIS
and Campbell, 193, 258
HARRIS
Ann, 624
Benjamin, 204
C. N., 184, 191, 195, 595
Dora, 595
Edward, 666
Harriet, 514
J., 220, 744
J. E., 596
Joseph, 143, 144, 147 149, 213, 251
Mary, 596
Mr., 514
Oliver E., 596
Prudence, 596
Rev., 509
Richard J., 513
Roy, 596
Troy, 596
William, 596
HARRISON
Irena, 608
Jacob, 311
John, 123, 311, 603, 608, 694
Johnson, 311
Joseph, C., 215
William Henry, 27, 329
HARRY
B. F., 147, 148, 247
HART
Julia, 116
L., 202
Lewis, 201, 219
Lucy, 755
Seth, 211
Theodore F., 204
W. R. Dr., 748
William, 747, 774
William H., 211
HARTFIELD
Bernard, 214
HARTSHORN
B. F., 244
Rev., 405, 406, 695
Rev. George, 688
HARVEY
C. A. Mrs., 60
Louis, P., 43, 44, 244
Louis P., Gov. 59, 60
Richard J., 247
HARWOOD
Thomas, 761
HASBROOK
Samuel, 214
HASKELL
Arthur B., 215
C. C., 220
Charles C., 213
F. A., 200, 201
F. M. 220
Francis M., 215
H. W., 180, 317
Hiram, 684
Silas, 694
HASTINGS
_____, 778
David, 528, 531
George, 161
Kelaie Mrs., 528
Samuel D., 44, 48, 243, 244, 245
HASWALD
Caroline, 507
HATHAWAY
Joshua, 110
HATLESTADT
D. E., 184, 192, 195
HAUCKABOUT
William H., 201
HAUGEN
_____, 765, 778
N. P., 64
HAUGHTEN
Rev. W., 678
HAUGHTON
Edith, 285
Ethel, 285
Eliza, 398, 686
Rev., 648
William, 251, 252, 263, 264 686
William Rev., 285, 390, 391 396, 397, 399, 678, 733
HAVEN
Andrew, 251
HAVENS
Charlotte, 712
HAWKINS
George W., 211
HAY
Anna, 519
Eliza Jane, 698
Frank, 699
Helen, 514
James, 698
John, 698
Jonathan, 221, 698, 707
Julia, 698
Marcella, 699
Martha E., 698

HAY continued
Mary, 698
Mary Jane, 699
Mary M., 698
Pearly, 699
Peter, 688, 698
Susannah, 697
HAYDEN
Alvin M., 657
Arthur M., 657
Clarissa, 657
Florence, 651
Henry, 250
Herbert F., 657
Jane, 657
John F., 657
Lucy, 657
Pickney, 212
Sylvester, 648
Vesta May, 657
William W., 657
HAYES
Hester, 592
James B., 250
John, 592, 598
John Jr., 592
Mary J., 592
Miriam, 592
Rachel M., 592, 598
Rutherford B., 52, 250
Sarah A., 592
William, 159, 160, 721
HAYFLICH
Alice A., 573
Elizabeth, 573
Elizabeth M., 573
Henry, 573
Jacob, 573
Jacob Z., 573
Mary B., 573
Sarah J., 573
HAYS
Alexander, 210
Peter, 293
R. B., 560
HAYTER
William P., 215, 523
HAZELTINE
W. B., 688
HAZELTON
George C., 46, 47
Gerry W., 44, 46
HAZEN
_____, 680, 684
Edward W., 303
Emily, 303
HEACOCK
Jacob M., 212
HEADLEY
James C., 218
HEADY
Mrs. 496
HEAL
Agnes S., 739
Eleazor, 739
Elizabeth, 739
Ellen N., 739
Emma, 738
Henry S., 739
Joseph R., 739
Lizzie H., 739
HEAL continued
Mary E., 739
S. G. Mrs. 738
Stephen G., 738
HEALY
Mary Ann, 564
Patrick, 564
HEASTON
Sophia, 640
HEATH
Herman, 666
Hiram, 664, 666
HEAVERINE
William, 645, 646
HECK
Florentine, 211
Joseph, 171, 401
Joseph A., 211
Joseph M.,171
HECKLEY
Joseph, 216
HECTON
Peter, 246
HEG
Hans C.,54, 244
Ole, 247
HEGGE
Iver P., 480
HEINRICH
A. Auguste, 757
Carl D., 757
Eliese Adelia, 757
Heinrich, 756, 757
L. Emielie E., 757
Louise M., 757
HEISS
Michael Rev., 497
HEKTOEN
Ludvig, 714
Maria, 714
Martin, 714
Olive, 714
P. P., 695, 714
HELGERSON
Lars, 505
HEMERSON
John, 401
HEMINGWAY
George, 733
Mary, 733
William, 733
HENDERSON
Alexander, 523
Hattie, 523
Irena, 523
John, 523
John W., 523, 524
Thomas, 523
HENDRICKSON
John H., 200, 201
HENNEPIN
Louis, 22, 86, 201, 327
HENRY
_____, 680, 711, 712
Alexander, 685
Andrew, 171, 318, 517
Andrew T., 700
Archibald A., 700
Christopher E. 70
Col., 98, 99
Elizabeth, 700
HENRY continued
Estella, 478
Gen., 100, 101, 102
103, 105, 106
George D., 700
Hattie, 523, 524
James D., 33
John T., 700
Laura A., 700
Louisa, 161
Lucinda, 524
Marion, 250, 711
Marvin, 696, 700
Mary, 524, 700
Mary J., 700
O. S., 517
Oscar, 523, 711
Phineas S., 524
Prof., 305
Ralph S., 700
Rossetta I., 700
Samuel, 245, 524, 700
Tamma A., 700
HENTHORN
Harriet, 610
Henry, 610
HERIECK
_____, 245
HERKEL
Francis, 478
HERMONSON
Herman, 490
Hilda, 480
Louise, 490
Peter, 480
HERRICK
Gilbert, 161, 600, 603
676, 677
Mr., 684
HERON
John M., 212
HERRON
Alexander, 558
Charles T., 590
Electa, 593
Elizabeth, 558
George W., 590
Hannah J., 590
Joel, 593
John M., 204
Joseph M. 590
Kate, 590
Mary Mrs., 689
Mary M., 590
Martha W., 590
Rachel, 590
Sarah E., 590
Sarah F., 593
Sarah J., 558
W. A., 689
William, 560, 590
William A., 593
HERSETT
John W., 641
HETZLER
A. 112, 113
HEWEY
_____, 683
Effie, 262
G. H., 252
Hannah, 262

HEWEY continued
James H., 251, 262
James N. 262
Mr., 684
HIBBARD
Charles Rev., 539, 667
Lewis, 213
HICKMAN
Capt., 340
HICKOK
Claude Irwin, 546
Cornelia, 546
Gould, 203
Jacob, 546
Jacob Manly, 546
James Almond, 546
Legrand, 204, 214
Mary, 546
Thomas Earl, 546
Thomas J., 546
HICOCK
S. A., 221
Simeon A., 215, 702
HICOK
Hiram A., 702
Mary, 702
Mary M., 702
HIGGINS
Alice, 520
Eliza, 659
Jacob, 116, 122, 138, 240, 255, 322, 518, 520, 774
Joel M., 110, 111, 112, 113
Judson, 520
Nathaniel, 110
Phebe, 520
Rev., 585
Sidney, 517, 520
William, 111, 112
Zuleima, 520
HILGEN
Frederick, 52
HILL
Alexander, 751, 752
Alonzo, 563
Benjamin, 139
Caroline M., 564
Daniel, 603
Dr., 176, 177
Eveline, 567
Ichabod, 201
Ichabod B., 201, 203, 212, 563
J.B., 202, 203
J.M., 649, 652
J.M., Mrs., 648
Lorenzo, 161, 604, 607
Mary, 161, 562
Mary, 161, 562
Mary Ann, 563
Sarah A., 652
Vilentia B., 562, 563, 564, 567
W. P., 732
W. P. Rev., 733
William, 563
Himes, Rev., 631
HINDS
J. H., 731
HINER
William H., 52
HINES
William, 541
Yanca, 541
HINKST
Eliza, 519
George, 520
Jane, 520
Lydai, 520
M., 149
May, 520
Michael, 115, 171, 240, 263, 401, 516, 519
HINMAN
_____, 129
HINSWORTH
Daniel, 683
HINTON
John, 769
HOBART
Chauncy Elder, 402, 403, 407, 688
Elder, 124
Harrison C., 45, 244
HOBBINS
Joseph Dr., 65
HOBBS
Mary, 641
HOBERT
Harrison C. 246
HOCKABOUT
W. H., 203
W. I., 203
William C., 214
HOCKENBERRY
James H. Dr., 271
HODGE
Clara L., 741
Olive Jane, 741
William A., 220, 741
HODGES
Alexander P., 54
HOFF
John, 212
HOFFMAN
Ambrose, 252
HOFINS
John T., 220
HOGUE
Elizabeth E., 521
HOHFELDT
Julius, 574
HOLBROOK
Charles D. 664
HOLCOMB
M. D., 221
Nancy, 610
Rev. 539
HOLDEN
F. A., 694
Fred, 682
HOLE-IN-THE-DAY
_____, 347
HOLLINGER
Susan, 614
HOLLY
Mary, 576
HOMES
John E., 44
HOLTON
HOLTON continued
E.D., 815
HOMSTAD
Ingebright, 160
HONAKER
E. V., 598
S. M., 523
HONE
Amy, 714
HONEY
Henry G., 214
HOOD
_____, 760
HOOK
Matilda, 616
HOOKER
Gen., 202
HOOKS
Eli, 213
Rosetta, 609
Thomas, 609
HOONREON
Peter C., 210
HOOVERSON
S., 589
HOPE
D. C., 682, 761
David C., 208, 215
George W., 208, 215
HOPKINS
Albert, 610
Alfred H., 610
Benjamin F., 46
Bertha, A., 610
Delia, 610
Elsie, 608, 610
Eluell D., 610
Emeline, 608, 610
Emmet V., 610
Fannie, 610
Frances E.,610
George, 610
Guy F., 610
H. B., 604, 608
Harriet, 610
Henry B., 600, 608, 610
Horace, 610
James C., 49
Mary J., 610
Myrta C., 610
Nancy, 610
Willie H., 610
Wilson, 252
HOPP
Christian, 203, 214
HORN
Frederick W., 45, 127
James, 744
P.L., 540
Rev., 690
HORNBY
Alfred L., 703
Estella, 703
George, 522, 703
Helen J., 525
James, 522, 525, 703
Joseph, 211
Margaret, 521, 525
Martha Louisa, 703
Martin L., 522
Mary, 703

HORNBY continued
May, 522
Minnie, 703
Robert, 521, 525, 703
William, 522
HORNEFFER
Conrad, 246
HORNER
John S., 35
HOSKINSON
George E., 52
HOSMER
Addison A., 184, 192, 730
HORTON
D. W., 556, 559
Daniel W., 212
Ebenezer, 560
Emily, 560
Hattie, G., 560
Mary, 560
Mary V., 560
Nellie, 560
HOFINS
John F., 217
HOSTE
Martin, 647
HOUGH
Peter W., 585
HOUGHTON
and Osgood, 322
Charles, 732
Dr., 324
E. B., 141
E. B. Dr., 271, 312, 324, 730, 737
Ellen, 731
Emery, 729
Euclid Dr., 729
Fannie, 732
Nancy, 731
William, Rev., 323, 732
HOUSER
J. F., 201
HOUSTAIN
Edward E., 761
HOUSTON
Samuel Gen., 716
HOVDE
Lars, 695
HOVE
A. S., 201
HOVELAND
M., 582
HOVERSON
Christian, 695
HOVERTON
P. C., 220
HOWE
Henry Rev., 608, 689
James H., 45, 49, 244
P. M., Gen. 771
Timothy O., 47, 48
HOWELL
Emma F., 686
John, 509
HOWETT
Emma, 398
HOYT
David P., 110, 111
HOYT continued
Elizabeth, 552
Harry, 553
J. W., 63, 147, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 248, 552, 553
Joseph W., 137, 552
Nina, 553
Russell, 553
Samuel W., 212
HUBBARD
A. B., 733
D. L., Rev. 648, 732
Delos, 648
Jonas, 508
HUBBELL
Levi, 47, 48, 55
HUEBSCHMANN
Francis, 51
HUFF
Harold, 552
John I., 212
HUFFMAN
Assemblyman, 244
Benjamin, 212
HUGHES
Betsy Mrs., 496
James, 240
Joseph, 496
HUGUNIN
Daniel, 35
HULL
Henry H., 214
William, 45
Humphrey
H. L., 138, 250
Henry, 208, 210
Herman L., 46, 47
John, 484
HUNT
and Olson's Mill, 165
Almon, 662
Bertha, 662
C.A. 141, 143, 144, 227 492
Capt., 290
Carrie, 662
Charles, 199, 495, 498, 761, 774
Charles A., 141, 142, 143 208
Cyrus, 662
Elizabeth, 662
Ella, 662
Ida P., 662
Joseph M., 662
RichardR., 662
HUNTER
George D., 220
Ira T., 280
James W., 621
John Dunn, 359
John W., 623
Jonathan, 540
Joseph G., 213
Orilla N., 592
Polly, 220
William, 204, 213
William B. H., 215
William B. U., 208
HUNTINGTON
HUNTINGTON continued
Antoinette, 657
Dr., 271
Edward F., 208
Frank, 200, 725
George F., 204
Joseph F., 216, 221
Samuel, 724
Sarah D., 657
Simeon F. Dr., 657
William, 677, 721
HUOETT
Elizabeth, 560
HURD
J. Alanson, 643
Jerusha A., 219, 643
John Rev., 689
Josephine, 647, 650
Rev., 608
W. W., 648
W. W. Rev. 723, 733
HURLBUT
T. C. 682
HUSSELL
Dr. S. E., 270
HUSTON
Capt., 99
HUTCHINS
Samuel, 226
HUTCHINSON
B. E., 137, 214
Barney C., 171
Buell E., 137, 243
Helen, 607
Joshua, 213
William, 213, 605
HUTCHISON
Albert, 617
B. G., 616
Helen, 617
Mary, 617
Matilda, 616
Sylvia, 617
Walter, 617
William, 617
HYDE
Charles F. 571
E. B., 648
HYLES
LeRoy, 699
Rena, 699
HYNE
Mary J., 545
Tammy, 218, 545
William,545
HYNECK
Father, Joseph, 667
HYNES
William, 537
INGALLS
Sally, 623
INGEBIRGTSON
Lars, 212
INGRETHSON
Martha, 481
INGERBRETSER
Tobias, 217
INGEBRIGHT
Martha, 161
INGERSOLL
_____, 734, 736

INGERSOLL continued
C. L., 148, 200, 288, 731
Eben, 285
INGERSON
Calsina, 544
Colsina, 545
INGRAM
Anna, 589
Mary, 589
Mrs., 630
INGRAHAM
Arthur R., 3
Samuel, 401, 694
INGREBRETHSON
Mrs. John C., 481
INMAN
E., 517
Eldad, 127, 139, 171, 172
Elisha, 522
IRISH
Charles, 688
J. E. Rev., 688, 732, 733
W. R., 688
IROQU@IS
Indians
IRVIN
David, 32, 35
Sarah J., 535
IRWIN
Jesse, 211, 219
Matthew Maj., 31
ISHAM
Cassius B., 305
Elizabeth, 552
H. M., 302
Mr., 774
JACKSON
A., 599
Alice, 597
Andrew, 35, 382
Alexander, 204
Caroline, 597
Carrie, 525
Charles A., 204
D. C., 557
Debora, 597
Emily, 599
Ezekiel, 216
Frank, 597
G. F., 597
H. W., 586
Henry, 136
Isaac, Rev., 571
James, 599
Lyman, 622
Mary, 571
Mortimer, 47
Mortimer M., 36, 48, 243, 778
Peter, 318
Sarah, 599
Thomas A., 204
W. H., 599
William, 525
JACOBS
Christopher, 11
Helene, 488
JACOBSON
Nels, 488
O., 693
JACOBSON continued
O., Rev., 483
JACOBSDATTER
Karen, 161
JACOBUS
Peter, 208, 216
JAGER
E. C., 147
JAKOBSON
Nels, 161
JAMES
Alta, 592
Edwin, 35
Ethelbert F., 216
Frances, 592
Harvey, 592
John, 213, 592
Mary, 591, 592
Reuben, 592
Salem, 591, 592
Theodore, 592
Thomas, 592, 594
Troylus, 592
JAMESON
Josiah, 567
JANSEN
Torgee, 210
JANSON
Andrew, 210
Edward H., 240
JANSSEN
Edward H., 240
JARVIS
Belle, 471
Daniel D., 212
JEFFERSON
Thomas, 582
JEFFRIES
James, 211
Maria L., 564
Moses Kimball, 564
O. J., 510
Rachel, 564
JEFFREY
_____, 129
JENKINS
James G., 251
Tommy, 545
Yanca, 541
JENCKS
H. D. Rev., 732
JENKS
B. D., 734
H. D., 732
H. D., Rev., 648
JENNER
Dr., 741
Mary Ann, 741
William, 741
JENNES
John S., 500
Leroy, 499
R. R., 498
JENNINGS
Daniel, 214
Harmond D., 215, 626
Jared, 214
Lucretia, 622
Margaret, 626
Naomi, 540, 541
JENSEN
JENSEN
E. Rev., 552
JENSON
Anders, 695
Hans, 694
Martha, 546
JEPSON
George, 537, 665, 669
JERMAN
Anna, 703
Blanche, 704
Elsie S., 703
Lottie, 703
Peter, 137, 148, 248, 703
Raymond L., 704
Sarah N., 699
Sorn, 646, 703
Susan, 652, 703
Thomas, 681, 694, 703, 704
JERSEY
Charles, 491
JESPERSON
Hans, 215, 221
JEWELL
J. H., 711
Sarah V., 711
JINKS
Elisha, 401
JOBE
William, 720
JOGUES
Isaac, 19
JOHNECHICK
Albert, 664
JOHNSON
A. F., 522
A. T., 200, 202, 570
Abel A., 212
Abel H., 210
Amos, 212
Albert, 213, 221, 652
Alice A., 578
Andrew, 211, 482, 484, 490
Andrew J., 522
Andrew Jr., 490
Andrew L., 578
Anna, 522
Betsy, 549, 558
Byron W., 204, 212
C. N., 644, 645
Calman Albert, 507
Carl O., 490
Caroline, 490
Charles A., 578
Charles E., 490
Christian, 490
Christina, 651
Christopher N., 651
Clara Isabel, 507
Cornelia, 612
D. H., 222, 244
Daniel, 137
David, 578
Dr., 271
Edwin R., 522
Elizabeth, 522, 652
Ella, 553
Ellen, 651
Elling, 517

JOHNSON continued
Esau, 401
Fannie, 522
Florence R., 652
FRANCIS, 522
Frank, 268, 647
George, 211
Gunelda, 651
Halver, 695
Hendrick, 482, 695
Henry, 213, 255, 506 507
Ida, 748
Irena, 523
J. H. Rev., 690, 693
Jacob, 117, 123, 171, 401, 506, 507
James Rev., 568
James H., 215
Johannes, 695
John, 645
John C., 646, 651
John P. 203, 506
John Q., 578
John W., 31
Joseph, 201, 212
Joseph A., 203
Kendall, 578
Knud, 215
L. Capt. 222
Lars, 558
Leonard, 200
Leonard E., 200, 201, 490
Lizzie E., 652
Lorena, 650
Louis S., 248
Louisa May, 652
Luther, 578
M., 252
Margaret, 651
Martha, 558
Martin, 255
Mary, 255, 522, 549, 578
Mary J., 562
Michael, 252
Mr., 222
Nancy, 578
Nels, 582
O. A., 540
Ole, 137, 244, 254, 249, 250, 251, 252, 551, 552
Ole A., 182, 183
Ole C., 61, 248, 249
Ole J., 210
S., 210
Peter, 148, 149, 210
Peter J., 506
Peter M., 506
Petter, 507
Rachel, 652
Robert, 652
Robert R., 652
Rosie R., 652
Sarah, 490, 578
Thomas, 695
Torger, 221
Torger N., 651
W. W., 517
JOHNSON continued
William H., 201, 202
William O., 522, 523
William R., 522
william V., 578
JOHNESCHIEK
Frank, 66
JOHNSTON
Byron W., 212
Jane, 558
William, 558
JOLIET
Louis, 21, 22, 86
JONAS
William, 215
JONES
Ann, 757
Burr W., 47
C. O., 202, 203
Charles O., 201
Col., 99, 101, 102, 106
David, 822
David W., 44, 243
George W., 37, 137
Henry, 201
Jacob, 216
Jane, 161
John, 204
Margaret, 517
Maria L., 564
Mr., 294
O. C., 649, 652
William, 110, 111, 208
JOQUES
Isaac, 19
JORDAN
Alpheus T., 670
Ann Eliza, 670
Clara Bell, 670
David B., 670
Elizabeth, 538
Emory G., 670
G. S., 147, 148
Harriet, 538
James, 648, 670
James L., 208
James M., 670
Joseph C., 670
Le Roy, 670
Louisa, 538
Lydia B., 670
Martha J., 670
Mary, 538
Mary Ann, 670
Moses, 537, 538
Oliver B., 670
R. W., 147
Reuben, 648, 663
Sarah, 647
Susan, 538
T. S., 148, 149, 150, 154, 156, 157, 249, 666, 670
Timothy, S., 137, 670
Wesley S., 670
William, 536, 538
JORGENSON
Halvor, 477
JOSEPH
Brothers, 711
JOSEPH continued
H. C., 247, 248, 265
Harrison C., 217
J. L., 252
J. R., 147
Jeremiah L., 213
John P., 213
John R., 621, 623, 624, 625
L., 244
Lemuel, 245, 265, 720
Mary E., 265
Sarah, 265
Samuel, 245, 265
Thomas E., 217
W. W., 144, 249, 744
William, 199
JOSLYN
Cary H., 216
William H., 208
JOURNEY
Sample, 101
JOYCE
Catharine, 614
J. P., 681
JUDD
_____, 767, 768
JUDSON
Rev., 648
Rev. G. C. 689
JURGENSON
Caroline, 490
John, 490
JUVE
Rev., 518
T. O., 251, 252
KADEN
Rebecca, 595
KAHLE
Earnest, 220
KANOURE
T. D., 764
KANOUSE
_____, 779
T.D., 222
T. G., 252
KARTERNA
Ole P., 210
KASTRUE
Ole P., 220
KAUFFMAN
Abraham, 545
Anna, 570
Annie, 545
Benjamin, 212, 545
Betsey, 545
Colsina, 545
Eliza, 545
Frank, 570
Starrett, 545
KAUFMAN AND FINCHER, 571
KEATING
James, 471, 473
KEELER
& Fowler Co., 280
_____, 706
A., 141
Alson, 141, 142
Anson, 679, 690
KEEN
Mrs. Mary L., 685

KEETON
J. F., 751, 752
KEGLEY
Albert H., 538
Elias, 537, 538
Ellen, 538
George A., 538
Ida J., 538
Mary R., 538
Rebecca, 538
Sarah, 545
KELLAND
Anna, 699
Anna C., 699
Bertha, 699
Christina, 699
Ellen B., 699
Lars, 699
Mary Ann, 699
Mary Lesilet, 699
Olena C., 699
O. O. Jr. 699
O. O. Sr., 699
Sarah, 699
KELLAR
Michael, 774
KELLARD
John, 175
KELLER
Michael, 568
KELLEY
Caroline, 753
David M., 45
E. P., 123
Ezra, 753
Martha, 753
Thomas, 682
KELLICUT
David, 751, 758
Jutita, 758
Viola, 758
KELLOGG"S
Grove, 96
KELLOGG
J. A., 201
John, 52
L. S., 607
La Fayette, 36, 774
Lewi, 607
Lewis D., 213
Lumen S., 213
Ransom, 213, 604, 612
Romania E., 612
KELLY
James, 219
Jesse, 521
Thomas, 521
KELOCK
William, 212
KELSIE
Daniel, 556
J. W., 528
Jacob, 528
Martha, 528
Samuel, 528, 531, 555
KEMBEL
George, 607
KEMMEL
George, 606
KEMPER
Louis, 252
KENDALL
Elvira M., 189
Henry P., 216
Luther Rev., 189
Nelson, 213
Trumin, 586
KENNEDY
Samuel, 211
KEOKUK
_____, 107, 330, 335, 359, 364 336, 378, 387, 388
KERR
Angeline S., 665, 669.
Christina, 595
Eliza J., 669
Homer I., 669
Hugh, 144, 665, 669
John J., 669
Mary J., 572
Robert A., 669
KERSHAW
William J., 240
KETCHAM
William, 137, 245
KETTLE
William,204, 207
KEYES
Harrison, 556
Horace, 556
KIBBIE
Eunice, 575
KICKAPOO
Indians, 441
KIEF
Delevan, 585
KIEL
James, 510
KIER
William, 303
KIES
Albert, 508, 509
Jerusha, 509
KIGLEY
Elias, 774
KILE
George, 515
Giles M., 774
Guila, 515
Huldah, 515
James, 515
John, 515
Mary, 515
KIMBALL
Alanson M., 46
Daniel, 567, 578
Joseph, 578
KING
_____, 724
Adolphus, 216
Benjamin S., 214
George, 645
George H., 251
Laura, 647, 651
Lean, 496
Loer, 158, 159
Maggie A., 667
Rufus, 202
Sarah C., 714
W., 159
KINGSLEY
KINGSLEY continued
Miss, 289
KINGSTON
James, 204
John, 204, 210
John T., 52, 762, 763
KINGSTON
& Thomas, 147
KINNEY
Marshall L., 212
KINZY
Mr., 363
KIRKPATRICK
_____, 204
John, 207, 215
KISH
Betsy, 558
KISSELL
Mary, 478
KITCHEN
_____, 129
KJELLAND
Osten, 690
KJOSTILSON
Ole, 210
KLAUS
Anton, 248
KLOMSTEN
Anders Nielson, 552
KLOPSLEISCH
E., 143
Edward, 143, 144, 246, 567, 569
Edmund, 140
KNAPP
Emma, 501
H. W., 149, 497
Henry, 501
Henry W., 501
John H., 52
Melinda, 577
Walcott H., 501
William, 501
KNIGHT
John, 221
KNOWER
Charles, 528
Franklin, 528
George, 528
Susie, 528
W. H., 250, 252, 266, 528
William H. 251
KNOWLES
Hannah, 575
Thomas, 218, 575
KNOWLTON
James H., 51
Judge, 172, 173, 174
W., 243
William, 171
Wiram, 122, 136, 311, 322
KNOX AND ST. JOHN
_____, 607
KNOX
Mr., 538
KNUDSON
Carrie, 560
O. B. Rev., 690, 693
Ole A., 210, 221
Rachel, 161

KNUDTSON
Byer, 211
KOCK
Frederick W. C., 210
KOENIG
Susanna, 593
KOHER
Christopher, 204, 220
KONGELSTAD
Petra H., 775
KRAUSS
Dorotha Saloma, 672
KREIGLE
August, 747
KREPS, Margaret, 219
KRIBBS
F. H., 52
KRIEGEL
August, 751
KRUGEL
August, 757
Carl, 757
Louise M., 757
KUEHN
Albert, 534
Albert F., 533
Bertha, 534
Charles, 44, 243
Edward, 534
Elizabeth, 534
Ernest, 534
Ferdinand, 44, 249
Huldah, 534
Infant son, 534
Julia, 534
Lina, 534
Sophia, 534
KUERSTEN
Albert, 570, 571
KUFFMAN
A. A., 567
Abraham, 537
KUMRINE
Dr. F, 213
KURTZ AND CO. 200
KURTZ
J. C., 135, 245, 725, 703
John C., 246, 736
KYES
David, D., 221
David S., 213
KYSER
Jonathan, 213
P., 221
LACEY
Clarissa, 574
Cynthia, 574
E. Urial, 573
Emily, 574
Enno H., 574
Esther, 574
Frances, 574
George, 573, 574
Harrison, 574
Henry, 574
Larua, 574
Martha, 574
Mary L. M., 574
Orlin, 574
LACUYER
LACUYER continued
_____, 338
LADD
Azel P., 49
LAKE
Albert, 615
Amelina Ann, 615
Augustus Stockholm, 615
Charlotte, 615
Clementine, 615
Ella, 615
Ethel, 615
Frederick, 615
J. R., 221
John R., 615
Levi John, 615
Samuel Welobee, 615
William, 694
William Henry, 615
LAMB
Anthony, 747
Dana C., 64
Edwin, 751
Harriet, 660
Josiah W., 211
Juliette, 520
Lydia A., 219
Orange, 684
Ransom, 517, 520
Willard, 822
LAMBERT
James H., 247
LAMMERS
Gerhart, 252
LA MORSE
Peter, 139
LAMPMAN
Isaac, 219
LAMSIE
James, 244
LANDES
Emily, 718
LANDIN
James, 218
LANDON
Anna, 590
Betsy, 590
William, 252
LANDRAM
H., 774
LANDRUM
Charles, 537, 564, 570, 571
Lydia, 564
LANE
Caleb C., 211
James H., 215
Newton Rev., 732
LANG
T. D., 52
LANGDON
Oliver, 138, 160, 161, 162, 171
LANGE
Robert, 178, 482
LANGHAM
Major, 371
LANGLADE
Charles, 24
LANGLADES
Augustin, 24
LANGLEY
John, 253
Mr., 301
LANSING
Dr., 317
LAPHAM
Increase A., 62
LA PIERRE
Sieur, 87
LARGER
Betsey, 161
L'ARK
_____, 375
LARKIE
Alorena, 561
August, 561
Mena, 561
Mollie, 561
LARRABEE
Charles H., 46, 47, 48
LARRY
J. P., 181, 182
LARSON
Andrew, 485
Arne, 517
Bernt, 694
Carrie, 615
Chris, 737
Edwin, 582
Ellen, 559
Emma, 615
Hans, 723
Hans K., 480, 485
Helga, 505
Helgar, 506
Helge, 159, 615
L. C., 734
Lars, 485
Lars, T. 696
Lewis, 615
Mary, 758
Mathias, 485, 551
Michael, 161, 694
Ole, 615, 681
Peter O., 210
Severt, 701
Soin, 615
Susan, 522, 615
Tolena, 701
Tositere, 210
LA SALLE
_____, 22, 84, 86
LATHAM
_____, 384, 387
LATHROP
Adelia, 514
Chapaleon B., 218
Charlie, 514
Delia, 514
Eliza, 515
Harvey, 515
Jane, 515
John, 514, 515
Louisa, 514
Napoleon B., 515
Nellie, 514
S. E. Rev., 690
LATSCHAW
Albert, 742
Alexander, 117, 147, 245 321, 646, 647, 725, 741

LATSCHAW continued
Alexander cont., 742, 743
Belle, 742
Clare, 742
Edward, 742
James, 525, 741, 742
Joseph, 742
Kate, 742
Nellie, 742
LATSHAW
A., 127
Alexandria, 645
Mary, 646, 742, 743
Samantha, 525
LATTA
Albert P., 618
Charles, 618
David, 617
Edward, 617
Elizabeth, 617
Francis, 617
George, 617
Hannah, 617
Harriet, 617
Jessie Grace, 618
Joseph, 617
Josiah, 220, 617
Leanna, 598, 617
Lillie Maud, 618
Mary A., 618
Matilda, 617
Minnie B., 618
Nancy, 617
Nancy Estella, 618
Thannel, 617
Thomas, 618
William Orley, 618
LATTIMER
Mary, 553
LATTIMORE
Catharine, 723
Thomas, 553
LAUGHTON
Brothers, 756
LAUGHTON
Frank, 751
LAVOLD
Jacob, 161
LAW
Jonathon, 166, 724
LAWRENCE
Alice Z., 725
Daniel, 226
Ellen J., 725
Emma, 725
J. D., 683
James, 322, 517, 519, 697, 725, 733
James W., 725
Jane E., 725
Julia, 725
Mary, 161, 697, 725, 733
Mathew E., 725
Thomas, 725
William, 201, 202, 216
LAWSON
Rachel, 526
LAWTON
Alexander, 632
Alice, 632
LAWTON continued
Benjamin, 213
C. N., 246
C. W., 146
Caroline, 632
Chancy W. 141
Chauncey, 214
Chauncy W., 628, 632, 643
Clarence, 632
D., 774
D. A., 510
David E., 215
Elizabeth, 610
Francis, 603, 630
Francis G., 214
Frank, 607
George W., 213, 214
Henry T., 213
Jemima, 632
Miriam F., 632
Ulysses, 632
William, 632
LAYIEULLE
_____, 90
LAYNE
Captain, 203, 204, 245,
J. H., 143, 146, 685
James H., 137, 144, 146 190, 208, 257, 675, 677, 704
Lindsley, 685
Minerva, 704
Newton M., 184, 189, 190, 191, 207, 221, 227, 704
P. I., 248
P. J., 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 257, 688, 693, 694, 696
S. P., 682, 687, 688
S. Minerva, 227
Samuel, 679
Samuel P., 704
Sarah M., 190
LEACH
Mr., 682
LEARING
Charles, 245
LEASE
John B., 628, 631
John J.
William A., 214
LEATHERBERRY
Elizabeth, 641
LEAVENWORTH
Colonel, 341
LEAVITT
Edson, 269
I. S., 688
LEAWAULT
Jane, 161 (Tewalt)
LEDMAN
J. N., 509
LEE
Anna, 627
Anna Maria, 549
Annie, 546
Archibald, 214
Bertha Lena, 549
General, 59
LEE continued
George W., 111, 251
Henrietta C., 549
Henry L., 546
James L., 546
James T., 549
John E., 549
Lars Hanson, 546
Lena, 546
Mr., 123
Martha, 546
Martin Lewis, 549
Robert, 748
Martha Johanna, 549
Mary, 549
LEFFINGWELL
Judge, 185
LEFFLER
Isaac, 36
LEGARD
N. D., 585
LEIGHTY
Robert M., 214
LEIUM
Hans H., 217
LEMEN
Jane E., 698
R. F., 249
LEMON
Jane E., 190
LENDALL
Peter A., 212
LEONARD
Dr., 270
M. E., 208
Mortimer E., Capt.,761
LEPLEY
Isaac Rev., 539
LESTER
Mary Adeline, 755
S. N., 113
LE SUEUR
_____, 87, 803
LEVERETT
J. W., 571
James W., 571
LEWIS
_____, 129
Dr. A. J., 271
Catherine, 219
George W., 665
J. D., 201
James T., 43, 44, 59, 244, 245
Mr., 360
Thomas, 401
LIBAKKEN
Hans Olson, 480
LIBBETTS
John, 176
LIEN
Ole, 506
LIER
Simon P., 507
LIEURANCE
David, 215
Frederick, 215
Joshua, 215
Lemuel, 215
LINCH
J., 509

LINCOLN
Abraham, 52, 197, 244, 245
Edith, 774
S. C., 161, 255, 317 676, 677, 684, 686 687, 693, 744
S. C. Mrs., 774
Sylvester C., 162, 243
LIND
Amelia, 647, 662
Arthur, 546, 576
Augusta, 546, 576
C., 202, 203
C. J., 572
C. L., 576
Charles, 201, 212, 219 576
Charles L., 571
Charlie, 546, 570
David, 203
E., 202
Ed. 693, 694
Edward, 201, 216, 249, 255
Elizabeth, 219, 662
Henry, 546, 576
Ida, 546, 576
Jacob, 546, 570, 571 576
Larinda, 546
Lorinda, 576
Mary, 546, 576
Matilda, 546, 576
Ore, 214, 662
Peter, 570
Sophia, 576
LINDAHL
M. J., 484
LINDEMAN
Herman, 51
LINDEMANN
Albon, 706
Henry, 706
Rebecca, 706
Regina, 707
W. F., 317, 680, 682 683, 684, 693, 706
Willie, 707
LINDEN
Thomas, 577
LINDLEY
Harvey D., 204, 210
Mr., 294
T. L., 245
Thomas, 500, 682
LINDMAN
George P., 249
LINDRUM
Charles, 212
LINDSAY
_____, 93
LINDSLEY
William L., 201
LINDWURM
William H., 201
LINK
Henry, 564, 571
William, 574
LIPCAP
Solomon, 348, 351, 354
LISENBEE
C. I., 200
LISSO
Anna, 478
Dengaline, 478
Elizabeth, 478
Emma, 478
Joseph, 478
Mary, 478
LITTLE
CROW-KAI-HAI-GE-GED 155
Anna M., 269
Dr., 706
Eliza, 642
George, 552, 649
James Dr., 269
Lyman Dr., 269
LITTLETON
Francis M., 211
Hugh, 211
LLOYD
Mary Ann, 564
Morgan, 537, 539, 540
LOBDELL
R., 734
LOCKIE
Emery, 628
LOCKINGTON
John, 161
LOCKWOOD
Henry, 606
James H., 343, 345
Judge, 336, 387
Mr., 345
Mrs., 347, 351
LOMBARD
S. Adelia, 271
LONGLEY
John, 139, 240, 253, 322, 677
LONGMERE
Matilda, 193
LONGMIN
John W., 214
LONGMIRE
J. W., 222
John W., 201
LONGSTRETH
Sarah, 708
LONGSTROTH
M., 627
LONGUE
Levi, (Tongue), 201
LOOMIS
Capt., 372
LORE
Alfred, 214
LORING
Edwin K., 208, 216
LOTHRIDGE
Mary, 617
LOTTRIDGE
_____, 285
LOUCKS
William, 204
LOURIE
Alexander, 261
W. W., 261, 262
LOURJEE
Charles, 193
LOURJEE continued
Emma, 193
LOVASS
Jacob, 482
LOVELACE
Alfred, 756
Jenny, 756
Rebecca, 756
LOVELL
C. T., 52
Frederick S., 45
Frederick W., 136
LOVLIN
Sidney B., 201
LOW
A. D. Rev., 280
LOWE
John, 435, 455, 456
LOWER
Didama, 752
Hettie, 753
Madison, 752
William, 753
LOWER AND SON, 748
LOWMAN
Samuel D., 669
LOWREY
Daniel, 173
Mr., 299
William H., 213
LOWRIE
Alexander, 201, 202, 213, 221, 249, 595
Christiana, 595
J. P., 295
James, 146, 225, 246, 254, 287, 288, 303, 311
Lovary, 595
Lurance V., 595
Rebecca, 595
W. W., 246, 247
William, 595
William W., 179
LOWRY
Ida, 614
John, 614
LOYER
J. B., 353
LUDDINGTON
Harrison, 249
LUDINGTON
Harrison, 43
LUDWIG
Carl, 540, 574, 578
Charles, 571
Rosina, 574
LUFKIN
Lois, 741
LUKE
John, 201
LULING
Charles, 52
LUMBART
Cyrenius, 509
LUMLEY
David E., 219
LUMSDEN
Ellen J., 563
LUNLOKKEN
Simon, 212
LUPI

LUPI continued
Anna, 533
Catharine, 531
Silvester, 531
LUTHER
Harriet, 755
LYNDE
William P., 35, 36, 46
William Pitt, 46, 137
LYON
James R., 201
W. P., 248
William P., 45, 250
LYONS
John, 721
Mrs., 580
William P., 48
LYTLE
_____, 680, 681, 682
Annie, 639
LYTTLE
Alice, 742
C., 731
Charles, 729, 742
George A., 553
James, 742, 734
LYTTLE C. AND COMPANY, 731
AND CHASE COMPANY, 553
McALLEY
H. W., 244
McARTHUR
Arthur, 43, 44, 56, 243
McAULEY
_____, 677
Daniel, 185, 735
Eliza, 736
Eliza A., 186
Frank, 736
H. M., 315
H. W., 184, 185, 186, 679, 730
Henry, 734, 735, 736
Henry W., 246
John, 736
Margaret, 194
Mary E., 736
Melvina, 186, 736
R. M., 185, 736
Raymond, 736
Rebecca, 736
Rebecca A., 186
Richard M., 726
Royal, 736
William H. H., 185
McAULEY
AND BELL, 736
McCALL
A., 252
McCARTHY
John, 606
McCARTY
J. J., 605, 606, 618
Lucinda, 626
McCAULEY
Leonard G., 211
P. H., 202
McCAULLEY
Henry, 621
McCLAIN
James, 201
McCLARAN
McCLARAN continued
Hugh, 774
McCLAREN
W., 251
McCLARIN
A. M., 605
McCLARRIEN
Hugh, 605
McCLELLAN
George B., 52, 245
McCLELLAND
James, 204, 216
McCLURE
H., 202
Hugh F. 201, 212
John C., 212
Thomas, 563
Thomas W., 201, 202, 212
McCLURG
Annis, 659
Cyrus, 659
Eva, 707
Inez I., 659
J. Booth, 659
James, 214, 707
Jemima Booth, 707
Jennie, 659
John, 703, 707
John B., 707
John Philip, 659
Leo, 659
Luther, 707
Mabel, 659
Manasah, 208, 210
Martha, 707
Mary J., 703
Mary Jane, 707
Maud, 659
Nancy, 556, 707
Reno, 659
Robert T.,210
Seth, 214, 696, 707
Sylvanus, 707
Walter R.,
McCOLAUGH
Samuel, 214
McCOLLOCH
_____, 521
McCOLLOUGH
Mr., 580
John, 516
Mary Jane, 623
Robert, 623
McCONNELL
Agnes, 707
Alexander. 585, 706 707
Cecilia, 706
Ellen, 707
Homer, 707
Marshall A., 707
Mary Ann, 591
Rebecca A., 186, 736
Rhoda, 707
Sarah A., 707
T. C., 681
W. T., 141, 142, 248, 251
William, 244, 249
William T., 244, 681, 707
McCORD
Tempa C., 513
McCORMIC
James, 171
McCORMICK
_____, 677
Benjamin, 704
George, 185, 679
George S., 127, 776
James, 533
John, 645
McCOY
James, 672
Joseph, 665, 667
Mary J., 672
McCREARY
Jacob, 208
McCRELLIS
Robb E., 207
McCULLOCH
David, 732
John, 116, 117, 122, 123 171, 418, 420, 725
Lydia A., 732
McCULLOUGH
John, 321
McCULLOCK
James O., 211
McCUMBER
Jane, 290
McCURDY
Mrs. Robert, 767
McDANIELS
Samuel, 218
McDAUALL
Col., 470, 471
McDERMOTT
Henry, 712
Phebe A., 712
McDILL
Alex S., 46, 51
George, 730
George A., 216
George D., 200, 201
Hugh, 243, 246, 247, 731
James, 729
McDONALD
D. M., 521
David, 220
Jane, 521
McDONOUGH
James, 149
McDOWELL
_____, 202
A., 731
Charles, 731
McFARLAND
Elizabeth, 523
Mary, 193
McFEE
Jennie, 755
Washington, 744, 747, 752
McFETRIDGE
_____, 765
E. C. Mrs., 766, 778
Edward C., 45, 252
McGARRY
Edward, 54
McCARY

McGARY
Sarah, 161
McGRATH
Annie, 636
Ellen, 636
James, 528
John, 636
John E.,
Timothy, 636
Timothy W., 636
William, 567
McGRAW
E. M., 778
Edward M., 54, 243
McGREGOR
John, 243, 778
Rob Roy, 761
McHENRY
Elizabeth, 220, 633
Joseph, 631
Lucy, 633
William, 633
McHUGH
Thomas, 44
McINDOE
Rev., 404, 406, 688
W. D., 138, 245
Walter D., 46, 51, 245
McINTRE
P., 149
Peter, 148
McKASHA
Caroline, 607
McKAY
Col., 30
John W., 648
McKEE
_____, 307
Martha, 528
Robert, 214
McKIE
Ernest, 716
Harriet, 716
Hugh, 716
James H., 716
Jane E., 716
N., 150, 715, 716
N. Mrs., 269
Sarah E., 716
Sarah J., 716
McKINNEY
Dr., 222
McKINZIE
_____, 433
McKITRICK
_____, 257, 683
A. James, 671
Bertrand Dupree, 671
Clarence W, 671
Elva May, 671
Irwin E., 671
James, 666, 667
John, 592
Laura E., 671
Martha A., 671
Mary, 592
Sarah Emma, 594
Samuel, 243, 244
Stella J., 671
McKITTRICK
Martha, 608
McKNIGHT
William, 482
McKOWN
Elizabeth, 477
Samuel, 477
McLADIN
J. R., 11
McLANE
Jame, 216
McLAREN
William P., 52
McLEES
Abraham, 558
Daniel O., 558
Hannah, 558, 596
Isaac S., 558
J. M., 150, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 774
James A., 558
John, 140, 247, 556
John M., 143, 558
John W., 558
Joseph, 558, 582
Joseph H., 558
Mary, 590
Neal D., 558
Rachel A., 559
Sarah J., 558
William C., 558
McLEEZ
John M., 137
McMAHON
Mary, 542
Thomas, 246
McMASTERS
H. E., 731
W. F., 731
McMENNEY
P., 149
McMICHAEL
_____, 138, 706
Eleanor, 581
Ella, 687, 713
Eunice L., 687
Frances J., 687
Isabella, 687
Mary, 580, 687, 721
Morton, 685
Mrs., 580
Nettie, 687
Orla Ann, 687
R. S., 140, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 149, 150, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 246, 247, 261, 321, 556, 686, 687, 693, 694, 713, 774
Robert, 117, 161
Robert L., 212
Robert S., 203, 687
Samuel, 117, 123, 140, 160 161, 171, 203, 204, 215, 240, 243, 244, 265, 321, 322, 323, 676, 687 734
William, 221, 252, 580 581, 687
William A., 240, 243, 687
William C., 117, 137,
McMICHAEL continued
William C., cont., 138 139, 171, 243, 244, 256, 257, 311, 321, 679, 687, 778
McMILLAN
Malcolm, 537
Rev., 608
William Lewis, 581
William Rev., 496, 648
McMINN
_____, 135
McMYNN
John G., 49, 243, 245, 246, 778
Robert, 646, 648
McNEIL
Gen., 335, 364
McNOUN
Rev., 509
McPHERSON
_____, 760
General, 209
McQUEEN
Thomas, 213
McRIE
Hattie, 686
N., 680, 681, 682, 683, 704
McSHARRY
James, 603
Margaret, 608
McVEY
Agnes, 632
Caroline, 632
Eli, 628, 632, 634
Ella, 632
Ely, 149
Sherman, 632
William, 632
Allen, 219
MABIE
Willis, 684
MACATAMISH
Kakacky, 380
MACK
Andrew, 567
Cornelia, 567
James, 567
Julia, 593
William, 498
MACOMB
Maj. Gen., 107
MACY
John B., 46
MADDEN
Timothy, 159, 482, 483
MADDIN
Henry, 111
John , 576
Mary, 576
Patrick, 576
MADISON
Ellen M., 578
Philand, 578
MAGOON
Henry S., 46
MAHAN
Margaret, 161
MAHONEY
D. O., 397

MAHR
Annie, 543
Charles N., 543
David, 542, 543
Frank, 543
Friederika, 543
Henriette, 543
John, 543
Oscar N., 543
Peter, 543
Sophia, 543
MAIBEN
James, 604
MAINE
Elizabeth, 663
MAINES
Eliza,218
MAINS
James, 208, 210
MALIER
Henry, 629
MALLON
Eliza S., 594
MALLORY
A. G., 201
MALLOW
Adolphus P., 550, 575
Charlie E., 550
Edith Lillian, 550
Frances, 575
Freddie, 550
Hattie Maud, 550
Ralph W., 550
MALORT
J. J., 774
MALORY
James A., 250
MALOSH
John, 509
John S., 211
MAHAHAN
Benjamin F., 136
MANAHO
_____, 443
MANHART
J., 147
Joseph, 148, 563
MANNING
Dr., 271
MANTON
Stephen, 763
MANUEL
Thomas, 732
Thomas Rev., 648, 688, 733
MAPLE
Joseph, 626
Sophia, 626
MAPLES
David P., 51
MARCO
Rev. Father, 497
MARDEN
S. P., 748
MARET
Father, 327
MARKEE
John, 509
John Rev., 667, 669
Martha, 669
Miranda, 666
MARKEE continued
Permelia, 669
Rev., 509
MARKER
James, 140, 582
MARKING
Nils Eriksen, 552
MARKISON
Bent, 207
MARKLAND
Thomas, 438, 473
MARKLE
Berthier E., 554
Charles, 554, 591
Claud O., 554
Cora B., 554
Elizabeth, 554
George, 554
J. C., 553, 554
Jacob, 218
John, 513
Miranda, 513
Neoma J., 554, 591
Permelia, 513
Peter S., 201,203
Sarah A., 513
MARKO
Rev. Father, 531
MARQUETTE
James 20, 21, 22, 68
MARSH
_____, 355
J. F., 201
James M., 110
John, 343, 346, 347, 348
Mr., 372, 373
MARSHALL
Dr., 272, 557
E., 722, 744
Elihu F., 514
Ellen, 667
Esther A., 514
Flora E., 514
Frances, 667
J. J., 509, 514
Jessie F., 514
John, 208,
John L., 514
Mary E., 514
Mary S., 514
Moses, 664, 665, 667
Moses B., 514
Nettie, 514
Sidney J., 514
W. L., 149
William S., 722
MARSTEN
L. D., 683
and Son, 718
MARSTON
Charles, 216
Cornelius A., 214
J. H., 202
Maj., 341
S., 248
Stephen, 173
MARSTUEN
Eric, 552
MARTIN
Eliza, 545
MARTIN continued
Emma, 501
G. W., 501
George, 215
George P., 621, 623, 624, 625
Joseph, 537
Joseph M., 567
Joseph N., 140
Morgan L., 36, 137
Rudolph, 211
MARTINSON
Amund, 506
O., 505
P., 221
MASKERS
Willis, 528
MASON
Clarinda, 737
Eli, 211, 220
I. N., 201
James, 208, 211
L. S. 208
MASTERS
and Morrow, 182
MASTERSON
Eliza, 491
John, 491, 492, 497
Mary Jane, 490
Michael, 491, 492
William, 216, 491
William A., 204
MATCHETT
G. W., 285
MATHIASON
Peter, 161
MATINSON
Peter, 210
MATTESON
John, 210
MATTHEWS
Oliver, 806
MATTISON
William A., 201, 212
MAULE
Capt., 471
Col., 471
MAXON
Dinsmore W., 246
MAXWELL
Celestia, 591
Dyantha Irene, 591
Hettie, 590
Hetty, 591
James, 35, 500, 594
Margaret, 591
Mary, 591
Nancy, 591
Neoma, 591
Rachel, 591, 594
Sarah, 590
MAY
Albert B., 598
Alonzo F., 598
Ann M., 589
Belle, 589
Bertha, 589
Col., 581
E. V., 598
Edna, 589
Eva, 598

MAY continued
Georgia, 589
Hugh L., 598
Ida Mae E., 589
James F., 598
Louisa J., 598
Mary D., 598
Minerva, 704
Phebe A., 598
R., 247, 248, 250, 252
Rachel, 592
Rachel M., 598
Reuben, 137, 248, 249, 251
Richard A., 598
Robert D., 598
Thomas H., 598
William J., 598
Zuingliens, 589
Zuingliens S., 598
MAYNE
Nicholas, 161
Nicholas Rev., 402, 688
MEAD
George H., 200
Larkin G., 204
MEADE
Alvira, 257
Henry, 257
Mary Ann, 563
MEDARY
T. C., 288
MEED
John, 648
MEDLACOTT
Edwin, 213
MEDLICOTT
James S., 161
MEDLICUT
James, 604
MEEK
Isaac, 536
MEGGETT
Alexander, 248, 763
MEIDAL
Mr., 683
MELBY
John Olson, 499
MELHINE
Elizabeth, 635
MELING
Rev. H. S., 552
MELLAM
Peter, 214
MELLEM
Adelia, 271
Hattie A., 271
S. A., Dr., 271
Willie A., 271
MELLEN
Caroline, 653
Elizabeth, 653
Essie, 653
Llond, 653
Myrtle, 653
Peter J., 653
Theodore, 653
MELLOR
James, 212
John, 649
MELVIN
George P., 211
MENARD
Col., 363, 364
Father, 20, 812
MENCEL
Gregor, 51
MENDENHALL
Edith, 597
MERCER
Lydia A., 714
MERRILL
John B., 204
Lorenzo, 252
MERRITT
Dr., 571
MESSENGER
S. J., 567
MESSERSMITH
Mrs., 122, 686
Jane Mrs., 743
MESSMORE
J. E., 174
J. S., 693
METCALF
John C., 204
Mary J., 610
Samuel, 683, 719
Zebulon,610
METHODE
_____, 346
METTICK
Mathias, 211
MEYER
John, 690
MICHAEL
Lena, 525
MICHELET
John, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 153, 154, 156, 157, 245, 246, 250, 480, 484, 486
MIERS
Richard, 204
MILAND
William F., 564
MILLARD
H. C., 631, 752
Henry, 643
Henry C., 754
James P., 204
Louretta H., 643
Mary, 754
Mary E., 643
Mittie J., 754
O. H., 744, 747, 748, 750, 751, 753, 774,
Oscar A., 643
Retta J., 754
MILLER
A., 729
A. N., 731
A. N., Mrs., 732
Andrew, 200, 201, 202
Andrew G., 38, 200
Andrus G., 49
Asbury F., 592
Benjamin F., 545
Bertha Orpha, 273
Bessie P., 273
MILLER continued
Catharine, 545
Catharine E., 752
Charles, 640
Charles W., 204
Daniel, 219
David, 215, 221
Edson, 545
Eleazer G., 216, 220
Eliza J., 272
Elizabeth, 533
Ellen, 738
G. L., 192, 288, 731
George, 603
George L., 730
H., 200
H. K., 221
H. P., 748
H. P. Mrs., 273
J. P. Dr., 273
Harvey, 592
Harvey C., 273
Henry, 738
Howard C., 273
Ida, 545
J. R., 221
Jacob, 688
James, 207, 214, 545, 592
John, 401, 420, 545, 744
John Col., 31
L. J., 725, 726
L. P., 724
Leahvina, 640
Lester D., 273
Mansfield L., 592
Mary, 522, 592
Mary B., 573
Mary H., 273
Mary M., 630
Melissa, 545
P. Jay, 725
Reuben, 537, 545
Sarah, 545
Sarah E., 592
Selucas C., 215
William, 213
MILLER AND RAMSEY, 527
MILLES
Andrew, 216
MILLIGAN
Angeline S., 665, 669
Eliza J., 665
Mary, 665, 669
Mary A., 665
Robert, 665, 669
Sarah R., 665
MILLISON
Ann, 643
Eddie, 643
George, 643
Harry, 643
Ida, 643
Levi, 643
Mary, 643
Nora, 643
MILLS
Martin B., 498
Nelson, 204
Sidney, 748
Simeon, 36

MILLS continued
Wlson, 214
MILLS AND COMPANY, 736
MINCHELL
William E., 201
MINER
Alice, 657
Henry T., 657
Hiram, 657
John, 646
Mary E., 657
P. D., 657
Sarah D., 657
Wilbur E., 657
MINOR
Bernice, 663
Charles, 662, 663
Charlie, 664
Clarence, 663
Edson, 663
Elizabeth, 663
Francis, 663
Hattie, 663
Helen, 662, 663
John H., 662
Johnnie, 663
Laura, 662, 663
Mariana, 663
Martha C., 663
P. D., 646
Thomas, 662, 663
Wallace, 663
Watson W., 662, 663
William H., 662, 663
MINSHALL
E., 246
Edward, 215, 689, 694
F., 694
F. M., 694
Frank, 694
Mr., 157
W. E., 200
William C., 214
William E., 222
MISHJAHL
Julia, 534
MITCALF
John, C., 213
MITCHELL
_____, 129
Alexander, 46
Alonzo, 179, 212
Amanda, 574
Clarissa, 567
Dr., 472
Erastus, 574
Erastus Jr., 572, 574
George, 472
Harriet A., 574
J. E., 110
James, Rev., 472, 732
Janet, 576
Julia, 574
Knowlton, 576
Nancy L., 572
Royal, 574
Ruth Ann, 574
Sarah, 571
Susan, 574
Susan S., 574
MITCHER
MITCHER continued
A., 571
MOBLEY
Julia, 574
Knowlton, 576
Nancy L., 572
Royal, 574
Ruth Ann, 574
Sarah, 571
Susan, 574
Susan S., 574
MITCHER
A., 571
MOBLEY
John, 324
MOCKET
R. S., 648
MOCKETT
Almira A., 641
Eliza, 641
John H., 641
Mary, 641
R. S. Rev., 609
Richard H., 641
Robert S. Rev., 496, 640
461
MOEN
Andrew J., 482
MOENICK
Andreas, 212
MOFFITT
Frederick Dr, 271
MOHS
August F., 567
Augustus, 576
Freddie, 576
George, 568
Ida, 576
Sophia, 576
MOILIN
John C., 212
MOIRES
Elizabeth, 652
MOLLEY
Andrew, 213
MOLLINGER
John, 569, 570
MONGAZID
_____, 359
MONTAGUE
G. L., 201
Peter Father, 540
MONTGOMERY, Agnethe, 486
Mr., 177
Milton, 208, 209,
246, 247, 248
MONTI
Almira, 534
Augustus, 534
Blanche, 534
Clementina, 531, 532
J. P. 531
Joseph, 528, 531, 532,
534,
Leona, 534
M., 252
Mathew, 528, 534, 774
MOODY
_____, 683
Abigail, 708
Bartholomew, 708
MOODY continued
Bertha, 708
Blanche, 708
Catharine, 708
Edith, 708
Hiram, 204, 207, 215
288, 707
James C., 217, 708
Jessie, 708
John C., 203, 217
Martha, 708
Martha J., 708
Nathan, 707
Nathan E., 708
Sarah, 708
MOON
_____, 293
MOONEY
Patrick, 204, 207, 216
MOOR
D. M., 221
MOORE
Amos, 534
Annie, 639
Anson, 639
B. S., 246, 248, 265, 266
744
Corelia B., 161
Cynthia, 630
Daniel M., 213
Elmer, 639
F. M., 556
Hugh, 401
James, 214, 639
John, 639
John A., 214
Leslie, 639
Mrs., 686
M. T., Lt. Col., 765
Nancy, 556
Peter S. 208, 214
R. J., 221
R. S., 631
Rev., 539
Robert J., 213
S. W., 556
Samuel W., 204
W. S., 707
William, 201
MORELY
Calvin, 203
Catharine, 161
Chester, 556
Julius C., 204, 214
MOREVILLE
_____, 176
MORGAN
_____, 255, 329, 330,
366
A., 647
Achsah, 739
Axlie, 646
Col., 369, 370, 371
Elizabeth, 647, 739
G. W., 680
George W., 715
Grace C., 739
H. H., 275, 725
Hattie L., 715
Henry, 588, 646
Henry H., 252, 739

MORGAN continued
James, 509
Joseph, 150, 153, 156, 157, 739
Mary W., 739
Maurice E., 739
Mr., 694
Richard, 648, 724, 726 739
Wesley H., 739
MORGANS
J. T., 688
MORLEY
_____, 718
Abner, 704
Amanda, 704
C. E., 249, 250, 267
Calvin, 199, 220, 251 693, 704
Calvin E., 220, 262 681, 682, 718
Elizabeth P., 704
Frank E., 704
Fred, 704
Grace, 704
Harriet, 161
Helen, 617
Kate, 704
L., 220
Leonard, 215
Margaret A., 704
Mary, 617
Mr., 299
W. B., Dr. 268
Willard, 146, 147, 247, 617
William B., 704
MORRIS
A. C., Dr., 270
C. H. Dr., 571, 579
MORRISON
Alexander, 208, 215, 524
Alexander C., 712
Archer J., 204
Archibald, 265, 586
Archibald J., 213
Charlotte, 712
E. H., 252, 696
Elisha, 712
Francis W., 214
Hanah, 558
Hans, 712
John, 712
Margret, 712
Mary Ann, 712
N., 186
Nathaniel, 712
Robert B., 712
Sarah, 524, 712
MORROW
J. M., 250
and Masters, 182
MORSE
Aurilla, 585
George E., 590, 592
J. O., 649
Margaret, 593
Mary, 593
Orilla N., 592
MORSE continued
Sarah E., 590, 593
William, 585
William A., 592
MORTERUD
Christian A., 498, 695
L., 492, 495, 497
MORTON
Jame, 227, 693
MOSES
Albert, 217
Emeline, 667
Rhoda, 707
MOSLEY
Calvin, 215
Leonard, 250
MOSSHOLDER
Daniel, 204, 210, 596
Emaline, 596
Squire, 496
MOULTON
Abesta, 541
F. B. Rev., 607
MOWERS
Gen., 761
MUELLER
A., 774
August Mrs., 734
C. L.,731
MULHERN
D. Rev., 200, 733
D. S., 200
MULLEINX
William, Rev. 667
MULLEN
Jane, 535
MULLIKEN,
D. R., 649
MULLIN
Charles, 550
Clara, 550
David G., 550
Eda, 550
Florence, 550
Hattie, 550
Mary, 550
P. T., 646
Susie, 550
MULINX
Rev., 509
MUNDSACK
_____, 535
MUNION
Rev., 556, 721, 722
MUNYON
Bazzle, 215
Jane, 525
John, 214
Thomas, 525
MURPHY
Daniel, 265
Nicholas, 171, 581, 585
Patrick, Rev., 497
MURRAY
Hattie L., 715
MUSCOGEE
_____, 443
MUSQUAKIE
_____, 444
MUSSEY
MUSSEY
Dr., 272
MUTCH
Alexander, 573
Clarence, 573
Harriet, 573
James, 568, 573
Jane, 573
John, 573
Margaret, 563
Robert, 573
William, 258, 563, 568 573
MUTCH
Brothers, 563
MUZZY
C. R., Dr., 557
MYBURG
G. O., 498
MYER
John, 172, 211, 215
MYERS
Elizabeth, 558
H. F., 572
Harvey F., 219
Richard, 647
MYRES
George H., 48
NADER
John, 252
NAPERUD
Bergete, 487
Carl, 487
John, 487
Julia, 487
Necoline, 487
NAPRUD
Andrena, 697
Betsy, 697
E. H., 695
Elias H., 697
Gilbert, 697
Hans, 695
Hans Nelson, 481, 487, 697
Helen, 697
Laura, 697
Leedwig, 697
Nels, 697
Nordahl, 697
NAPOPE
_____, 102
NASH
Albert, 645, 648
Robert, 208
NASMITH
Samuel J., 208, 209
MATWICK
H. H., 184, 191
NAVIN
Michael, 497
NAWKAW
_____, 362, 364
NEARISON
Neary, 505
Ole, 505, 506
NEELEY
Peter 603
NEELY
William J., 213
NEFF

NEFF continued
Morgan, 302
NEILSON
J., Rev., 518
NELSDATTER
Martha, 161
NELSON
_____, 715
A., 162
Andrew, 167
Anton, 488
Betsey, 549
Carrie, 549
Christiana, 549
Clara P., 549
Edward N., 549
Einar, 537
Einer, 549
Gabriel, 321
George M., 549
Gure, 549
Hans, 147, 481, 484, 487, 506
Helene, 488
J. G. Rev., 648
Jacob, 217
James, 549
Johanna, 549
N. W., 148
Martinus, 693
Mary, 161, 549
N. H., 774
N. W., 148
Nels, 160, 212
Nels E., 549
Nicholas, 482
Nicolai, 488
Ojerte R., 549
Ole, 488, 552
Ole A., 212
Paul, 549
Peter, 677, 680, 681 694
Rachel, 549
Rev., 648
Robert, 162, 549
Samuel, 160, 171
Sylvester, 161
William, 137, 248, 281, 282, 283, 284, 477, 693, 760
NELSON and Priest, 317
NEPERUD
Amanda, 507
Anna, 507
John A., 506, 507
Lena, 506
NESTING
Charlie, 507
Eliza, 507
Ingeborg, 507
Ole Evenson, 507
Selmer, 507
NEVIN
Michael, 747
NEWBURN
Joseph, 66
Josiah, 140, 141, 142
NEWBURY
_____, 682
NEWCOMB
NEWCOMB continued
Albert C., 599
Emily A., 599
NEWELL
_____, 132
Ann, 193
David, 192, 193
Isaac, 193
Isaac C., 204, 214
J. E., 137, 147, 149, 176, 215, 221, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 266, 267, 311, 677, 683, 690, 694, 696
J. E., Jr. 222
James E., Sr. 177
James Evans, 192, 199, 200
Kate, 193
Martha W., 193
Matilda, 193
N. E., 251
Sarah, 192
Warren, 514
William, 193
NEWLAND
David, 36
NEWMAN
Alfred W., 48
Alfred William, 182
Charles, 564
D. B. Dr., 269, 271
Elmira, 608
Fidelia, 564
J. A., 148
Sally, 219
NEWTON
Alfred W., 252
Alice B., 560
Amanda S., 534
Andrew, 557, 560
Elizabeth, 560
Eugene, 560
Mary, 621
Mattie, 560
O. J., 751
Oscar, 560
Polly D., 534
Purley, 226
Thomas, 201
NEWVILLE
Abram, 520
Jane, 526
Jeremiah, 526
Rachel, 526
NICHOLOS
M. C., 252
NICHOLAS
George, 676
Sarah A. 676
NICHOLET
_____, 42, 326
John, 18, 19, 20, 326
NICHOLS
_____, 679, 701
Almira C., 679
Annie Delia, 701
Chloe, 679
David Whitney, 701
Delia, 678
"Father", 774, 775
NICHOLS continued
George, 117, 225, 321, 421 644, 645, 741
George S., 214, 401, 678, 679 682
Henry, 199, 676, 678, 684, 688, 690, 775
Henry B., 215, 495, 679
Hettie M., 701
Hettie Rusk, 701
Horatio, 679
James Walter, 701
John, 201
Josephine, 679
L. W., 307, 678, 684, 687, 690, 701, 775
Lizzie, 679
Luther, 518, 678
Lydia, 678
M., 317
M. C., 678, 680, 681, 693, 694, 775
M. C. Mrs., 269
Mr., 297
Marshall C., 137, 679, 701
Marshall C. Jr., 701
Mary Ann, 679
N.C., 293
Sallie A., 679
Samuel F., 51
Sophronia, 679
William, 679
William H., 201, 203
Brothers, 300, 307
NICHOLSON
John, 184, 192
NICKLER
_____, 245
NICKLES
Jerome S., 52
NICKS
John D., 220
NICOLET
John, 81, 83, 86
NIEBORN
Andrew
NIFENECKER
Augustu, 176, 684
NILSON
Christian, 552
Stephen, 522
NILSSON
N. E., 695
Nils T., 695
NIXON
A. M., 594
Alice, 630, 639
Amos M., 594
Charles A. 594
Charles H., 594
Claude, 594
Edgar, 630, 640, 751
Edgar T. 640
Emma, 594
Eva, 594
Howard W., 594
Hugh, 594
I. C., 630, 640
I. D., 629
Irvin, 159
Irvin C., 640

NIXON continued
Irvin D. 640
Irving C., 630
J. C., 751
Jane, 594
Mercy J., 594, 640
R. S., 594
Rachel, 594
Raymond, 640
Ross K., 640
Royn, 594
Samuel, 594
Sarah, 640
Sarah Emma, 594
NOBLE
Butler G.,44, 244
I. F. Rev. 733
Levi, 212, 556, 557, 774
NOBLES
A., 556
NOFFSENIGER
Jacob, 141
HOFSINGER
J. B., 142, 143, 509, 510
NORRIS
Almira, 492
Clarinda, 703
Clarissa, 492, 503
Cyrus, 492
Edward, 703
Jasper, 492
John, 492, 501, 775
Joseph, 246
Lydia, 492
Margaret, 492
Phoebe, 492, 501
Sarah J., 161
Susan, 492
Theresa, 499
W. H., 629
NORTHRUP
M. A., 301
NORTON
Dr., 502
NOTTINGHAM
W. T. 693
NOTWICK
Ole H., 221
NOYES
D. K., 201
Jason, 570
NUBY
Peter, 213
NULTON
Mary, 705
NUMAN
B. B., Dr. 571
NURLEY
Julius C., 204
NUTTING
D. W., 202
Daniel W. 201, 216
NUZEMAN
_____, 245
NUZUM
Rev. Frank, 496
G. W., 319
George W., 247, 405, 688, 732
NUZUM continued
Isaac F., Rev., 732
J. F. Rev., 648, 732
NYE
Edward G., 251
OAKES
Alice, 534
Amanda S., 534
Bertha, 534
Clara, 534
E. L., 150, 153, 156, 157, 534
Ella, 534
Florence J., 534
Frank E., 534
Henry, 149
Horace E., 534
Jessie S., 534
Polly D., 534
OAKLEY
F. W., Mrs., 767
OBERT
Frank, 751
Henry, 66
O'CONNELL
Henry, 149, 150, 160
W. T., 251
O'CONNOR
Charles, 52, 248
ODELL
Isaac H., 213
Walter W., 203, 213
OFFICER
E. C., 591
E. G., 586
Elmer H., 591
Irvine, 591
James, 591
Lloyd Spencer, 591
Mary Ann, 591
Sarah, 591
W. F., 585
W. H., 143, 144, 245, 247
William, 529
William H., 137, 244, 245
Wyman L., 591
OGG
J., 498
O'KRE
John L., 734
OLDER
A. H., 171, 184, 186
Anna C., 161
Augustus H., 162
Joam, 593
Samuel, 594
OLDS
C. W., 540
Elizabeth, 593
Ira, 593
OLESDATTER
Anna, 161
OLESEN
Goelk, 213
OLESON
Abilena, 161
C. C., 255
Mathias, 218
Ole, 747
OLESON continued
Olena C., 699
Sarah, 161
OLIVER
Col., 207
James, 720, 721
John, 179, 180
John D., 203, 214
OLMSTEAD
Charles F., 208
OLSEN
Amund, 217
Erick, 210
Even, 695
Gullik, 694
Hans, 212
Mecal, 217
Niets P., 217
Ole P., 210
OLSON
Agnethe, 486, 599
Alberta, 551
Alma, 506
Anna, 722
Annie M., 616
Anton, 652
Brown, 122, 481, 486
C. C., 248, 250, 251 682
Carl, 182, 183
Caroline, 480, 481
Charles Edwin, 616
Christ, 774
Christian, 480
Christian C., 480, 482, 651
Gerhard, 506
Clara, 652
Dean, 658
Edward, 722
Elizabeth, 722
Elizabeth S., 551
Ellen, 559
Evan, 321, 486, 497, 498
Frederick, 497, 615, 616
Gabriel, 215
Gena, 551
Goodman, 149, 150
Hannah L., 616
Hans, 481, 486
Hans N., 616
Helen, 722
Henry Alfred, 706
Ida A., 616
Jacob, 482, 483, 486
John, 217, 722
John A., 616
Julia, 652
Karn, 486
Knudt, 506, 551, 553
Lars, 505, 559
Lars O., 481
Lewis O., 551
Lina O., 559
Marcus H., 616
Marion O., 616
Martha, 160
Martin, 722
Martinus, 486
Minna, 486
Minnie A., 616
Nellie, 652

OLSON continued
Nels, 505
Nels P., 693
Olave, 486
Olena, 722
Olauf M., 616
Olus M.,551
Oscar, 652
Peter, 143, 144, 210, 477, 480
Peter, Mrs. 160
R., 693
Rachel, 551
Randi, 560
Sarah, 722
Sophia, 486
Torston, 321
Willard Howard, 506
OLSON AND HUNT'S MILL, 165
OMAHAW
Indian, 448
OMAND
Christian, 693
OMUNDSON
_____, 680
Ellen, 701
Joseph, 252, 680, 681, 701, 718
O'NEAL
Elizabeth, 514
O'NEILL
James, 137
John F., 39
ONSET
Anna, 505
ONSTAT
Davis, 216
ONSTOT
David, 683
ORDING
Rev., 479
O'ROURKE
Mr., 222
J., 201
ORRISON
Francis W., 632
Hiram, 632
J. D., 214
Jesse, 628, 632
Jesse, Mrs., 629
John A., 632
Mary, 626, 632
Minnie C., 632
P., 628
Payton, 629
Sarah Almeda, 632
ORRITTA
Christiana, 279
ORTON
Harlow S., 48, 250
OSBORN
Ambrose, 213
Eli, 208, 213
J. H., 63
Jessie, 751
Joseph H., 64, 250
Marien, 213
Marion, 495, 497
OSBORNE
Ambrose, 607
OSBORNE continued
Maria, 614
OSENBAUGH
Isaac, 609
OSGOOD
Dr., 312
Ella R., 714
Henry, 217, 222
J., 324
James, 281, 714
James, Dr., 271, 729, 730, 733,
Joshua, 666
Ruth, 322
OSGOOD AND HOUGHTON
Drs., 322
OSTRANDEO
Christopher, 216
OSTRANDER
John, 744, 747
OTIS
John, 110
O'TOOLE
Elizabeth P., 704
OTT
Barbara, 531
Catherine, 531
Charles, 531, 532
Charles M., 532
Clementina, 532
Flora M., 591
Henry, 531
Ida V., 532
Jessie E., 532
John, 527, 531, 532
Mary, 531
Mary R., 532
Samuel, 531
OTTAWA
Indian, 448
OTTESON
Christina, 659
Jacob L.,659
Julia, 659
Kiah, 659
Mary A., 659
Otto, 659
Severena, 659
Solfest, 659
OTTUM
Susan, 521
OUSTON
D., 293
OUTCELT
Joel, 478
OUTKELT
Susan, 539
OUTLAND
Adela, 666
Isaac, 666
Rebecca, 666
William, 664, 665
OWEN
Milton, 215
P. J., 495
OWENS
Edward, 204
H. A., 158, 159, 318
Milton, 220
Samuel, 532
OWLES
OWLES continued
William, 739
OYER
_____, 356
PACKARD
Rhoda, 612
PAGE
Caroline, 653
Charles A., 216
Charles F., 201, 204, 218
David, 657
E., 528
Elisha, 143
F., 202
I. Gates, 179
Irena, 523
Isaiah, G., 210
Laurence H., 204
Lucy, 657
Maria, 725
PAINE
Byron, 48, 61
Halbeat E., 46
PALMER
_____, 765
Alexander S., 244
Henry L., 45, 245
J. E., 498
James F., 216
Martha, 161
N. B., 689
P., 682
Priscilla R., 218
S. M., 384
Samuel, 214
PALMETER
De Ette L., 755
PANNELL
James, 214
Joseph, 215
PARDUN
Jesse Rev., 688
PARK
Gilbert L., 204, 246
PARKER
Alexander Rev., 732
Archibald, 635
B. F., 252
Charles D., 44, 249, 250
David, 635
Della May, 642
Elizabeth, 642
Estella, 642
Eudora, 642
Harriet, 635
I. O., 144
J. O., 145, 147, 167, 751
James F., 635
James O., 143
James W., 571
Jemima, 635
Joel W., 571
Joseph, 629
Joseph O., 143, 635
Mahala, 635
Mary, 635
Mary E., 571
Minnie, 642
Permelia, 635
Rebecca,635

PARKER continued
Robert, 220, 631, 642
Sarah, 635
Steven, 635
W. D., 248
PARKERSON
Daniel, Rev., 608
Elder,613
PARKIN
Thomas, 553
PARKINS
Rev., 518
PARKINSON
Capt. 99
Daniel, 775
Daniel M., 344
Daniel Rev., 161, 162, 689
John B., 245, 246
Mary, 689
Rev., 280
PARKS
G. L., 246
PARNELL
John, 215
PARNETT
George W., 672
PARR
Arthur O., 501
Beulah J.,501
Charles E.,501
Cora E., 501
Gracie P., 501
Jesse J., 501
John, 499, 501
Julius A., 761
Mary, 501, 632
Mary E., 501
Nellie C., 501
Sarah, 499
PARSCH
Amelia, 478
Anna, 478
Charles, 478
Gustave, 478
Henry, 478
John, 478
PARSONS
Israel, 589
Oliva, 589
PARTRIDGE
A. W., 226
Susan L., 218
PARTNEY
Mr., 339
PATNELL
Francis 401
PATTERSON
Abbie, 556
E. O., 555
Edward, 558
Hiram, 556
Hiram B., 161
PATWELL
Mr., 311
PAUL
George H., 63, 64
Timothy S., 246
PAULSON
Gure, 549
Helena, 161
PAULSON continued
Soren, 690
PAULY
Mary, 654
PAUQUETTE
Peter, 106
PAURIE
Ellen, 653
PAXTON
Mary, 636
PAYN
J. Emry, 214
PAYNES
_____, 384
Byron, 247
George, 707
Martha J., 707
Uri, 707
PEARSON
Levi, 142, 201, 212
PEASLEE
Eugene, 651
George, 651
Harry, 651
Herman, 651
Isaac, 645, 647, 651
Laura, 647, 651
Louisa, 651
Mary,651
Mary M., 651
Susan, 651
Thomas, 651
PEAVY
Selinda, 218
PECK
Henrietta, 663
LeRoss, 663
Lydia R., 269
P. M., 646, 649
P. Melvin, 663
William, 247
PELTON
Emily, 642
Ezra O., 219, 642
Francis David, 642
Mary, 642
PENELL
Samuel, 215
PENNEL
Robert, 218
PENNELL
Isaac, 679, 684
John, 204
Mrs., 775
PEPPER
Ann, 510
George, 211, 510
Harrison, 510
Henry, 510
PERCIVAL
James G., 62
PERDUN
Jesse, 122, 124
Rev., 585
PERDUNN
Mr., 124
Rev., 404, 405, 406
PERHAM
L. M., 686
Mr., 684
PERICLES
PERICLES continued
_____, 127
PERKINS
L. B., 492
S. W., 495
PERKINSON
Andrew, 213
Richard, 211
PERROT
Nicolas, 21, 23, 87, 803
PERRY
Thornton, 538
PETERS
Phillip B., 734
PETERSON
A., 484
Andrew, 553
Anna, 611
Bore, 212
Carrie, 487
Christian, 161
Christopher, 219
Evan, 480
Iver, 210
John, 212, 477, 487
K., 774
Knudt, 526, 611
Knute, 517, 518
Lars, 690
Mathias, 553
O. P. Rev. 690, 693
Ole, 210
P., 321
P. N., 251
Peter E., 484
PETTIT
H. E., 200, 216
Henry, 216
M. H., 248
Milton H., 45, 62
PHAIR
John P., 571
PHELPS
Deacon, 663
Helen, 663
Henry, 216, 220
J. B., 52
James, 648
Judson, 217
PHILEO
Dr. 100, 101
PHILLIPS
Catharine, 757
Edmund, 739
Elizabeth, 739
Frank M., 757
Hannah, 757
Henry W., 714
Jennie, 757
Jeremiah Rev., 571
Lucinda, 757
Lydia, 757
O. O., 184, 190
Richard H., 216
Silas E., 216, 220
W. F., 748, 757
William C., 757
PHILPOT
Esther Amanda, 626
PHILPS
Noah, 110, 111

PHOENIX
F. K., 53
PICKARD
Josiah L., 49, 244, 245
PICKERAEL
Elisha W., 267
PICKERILL
E. W., 245
PICKWICK
_____, 184
PIDCOCK
Eliza J., 597
George T., 208, 217
Hugh, 526
Jane, 526
John C., 526
Letitia, 526
Richard, 215, 597
Sarah, 654
William, 208, 215
PIERCE
Alonzo, 714
Benjamin, 305
Daniel A., 212
Emily, 513
Franklin, 52
George J., 208, 210
Harry, 498
L. A., 127, 138
Lorenzo A., 138, 171 184, 240, 267, 311, 517
William T., 243
PIERSON
Levi, 141
PIKE
George, 116, 117, 171, 401, 517
Mr., 123
Samuel, 731
Z. M. Maj., 89, 92
PINCH
F. R., Dr., 270
Francis R. Dr., 571, 579
Richard N., 571
PINGRY
Mary, 593
PINNEY
S. W., 247
PIPER
_____, 722
Ann, 758
Timothy, 734
PITCHER
C. W., 245, 294
Charles, 311
Charles W. 190, 215, 267
Wilson, 214, 225
PITTS
S. W., 247
Samuel W., 214
PITZENBERGER
Jacob, 177
PLINER
Joseph, 538
PLUMER
P. W., 201
PLUMMER
J. W., 201
and Co., 729
POFF
Ada Florence, 272
C. M., 159
C. M. Dr., 272, 498, 504
C. M.,Mrs, 272
Charles, M., 219
J. J., 272
J. M. Dr., 271
Lewis Dr., 298
Lillian May, 272
Rosella Belle, 272
POINTER
Elizabeth, 514
Jane, 514
POKRAND
Samuel, 204
POLAN
Luther, 303
POLAND
Deputy Provost Marshal, 227
Sheriff, 176
POLK
James K., 41
POLLARD
Dora B., 263
George, 200
Mancil E., 263
S. R., 252, 262, 263
POMEROY
Brick, 292
POND
Thaddeus, 247
PONTIAC
_____, 2484
POORMAN
Alma Bertha, 671
Almeda, 671
Barbara E., 671
Benjamin F, 671
Brud, 671
Daniel, 671
Eli S., 671
Eliza, 670, 671
Eliza Bird, 671
Isaac D., 670, 671
J. N., 666
Jacob L., 671
Jacob N., 666, 667, 671
Laura E., 671
Louisa B., 671
Margaret C., 671
Martha J., 671
Mary A., 670
Mary S., 514, 671
Rosetta May, 671
Sarah C., 671
Susan, 671
William A., 671
POPE
General, 208
POPPLE
_____, 129
PORTER
Harriet A., 735
Henry G., 735
M. L., 731
Mary Lillian, 735
POSEY
General, 98, 103, 105, 106
POTTAWATAMIE
Indians, 442, 443
POTTER
Allison, 635
E., 629, 635
James, 635
John, 46
Jubette, 635
Juliet, 634
Mary, 635
Mary A., 635
Thomas J., 207
POTTS
Fannie, 499
Jacob, 630
John, 720
Jonathan, 499
Phoebe A., 499
Theresa, 499
Thomas, 499
Wesley, 720
William S., 499
POTWELL
_____, 117
POUND
Rev., 667
Thaddeus C., 44, 46, 47
POST
Edward, 721
POWELL
_____, 678, 680
Bros., 556
E., 150, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 275
Elijah, 146, 147, 528 689, 724
Elizabeth, 740
Frances, 740
Jasper, 741
Lois, 741
Mary, 661
Mary Ann, 741
Patience Choate, 740
Walter S., 194
PROPHET
_____, 371
PRYOR
J. T., 688
PUGH
Andrew J., 605
David M., 213
Jonathan H., 98
Wallace B., 213
William, 605
PULHAM
Agnes, 532
David, 532
Elizabeth, 532
Ellen, 532
Frank, 532
George, 532
Laura, 532
Margaret, 532
Mary, 532
Nisa, 532
William, 216, 532, 533
PULING
D. J., 248
PULLING
David J., 48
PULS

PULS continued
Annie, 658
Caroline, 658
Christena, 658
Christian, 658
George, 658
Jimmy 658
John, 658
Mary, 658
PULVER
Brothers, 682, 683
Catharine, 698
D. H., 148, 150
David ., 698
Elizabeth, 698
George, 208, 213
John N., 213, 698
John W., 213
Joseph, 682, 683, 694
Mary, 698
Oliver H., 698
Rachel, 698
Susan A., 698
W. H., 694
Wendell H., 698
Wesley, 159
William H., 698
PURDAY
_____, 132
PURDUN
Rev, 695
PURDY
B. F., 683, 693, 694, 713
Brice F., 698
Cass., 268
Ed., 698
Ella, 698
Ella M., 698
Frank, 698
Hattie 698
Henry H., 698
Ida M., 698
Jane E.. 190, 698
Judge, 322, 683
Kossuth F. 698
Myrtle, 698
Sarah, 658
Vienna T., 658
W. R., 300
W. S., 143, 184, 189, 190, 200, 246, 257, 293, 683, 687
William Rev., 647
William M., 658
William R., 698
William S., 137, 141, 244, 245, 246, 249, 266, 267, 311, 321, 645, 646 647, 693, 694, 698
QUASQUAWMA
_____, 364, 366
QUIME
Laughlin, 215
QUINN
Laughlin, 207, 219
Lauphlin, 204
Nancy, 578
RABBITT
Anna, 626
RABBITT continued
Elizabeth E. 626
George, 626
Jasper, 626
John, 626
L. S. 159
Lemuel E. 626
Lemuel S., 626
Lucinda, 626
Roy, 626
Sanford, 626
RADCLIFF
Rev., 648
L. L., Rev., 245, 689
Mary L., 689, 690
RADCLIFFE
L. L. Rev., 263, 732
Lars L. 722
RAFERTY
Mary, 751
RAMERT
James D., 244
RAMSET
Levi K., 645
RAMSEY
William H.,54, 244, 245
RANDALL
Alexander W., 43, 58, 59 243, 244, 777
Gov., 189, 198
Mrs., 677
RANEY
Justin W, 246
RANGER
Franklin, 208, 213
RANKIN
Joseph, 47
RANNEY
J. W., 137
RANSOM
Col., 291
RANSTAD
Andrew Jr., 490
Sarah, 490
RANTZ
Benjamin F., 204, 207, 215
Daniel, 204, 215
Peter, 213
RATCLIFF
Rev. L. L., 585
RAY
Augustus, 280
RAYMBAULT
Charles, 19
RAYMER
Charles H., 215
RAYNER
H. L., 590
H. M. N., 557
Mary M., 590
RAYNOR
Charles H., 204
Mary, 528
RAYWALT
John, 55, 774
REA
Ida, 195
READ
Daniel, 418, 517, 521, 600, 603, 605
READ continued
Daniel cont., 606, 677
George, 606, 614
Lydia, 521
REANME
Charles, 27
REASONER
Elizabeth, 676
Miss, 580
RED BIRD
_____, 92, 94, 347, 351, 354, 355, 356
RED THUNDER
_____, 449, 451
RED WHALE (Onkoe-tah-en-du-tah), 153, 154, 156, 162
RED WING
(Whoo-pah-en-du-tah), 162, 340
REECE
Forence Rev., 689
REED
Daniel, 321
Duncan C., 127
Ellis, 148, 194, 596, 624
Francis H., 596
Hannah, 596
Harley Lincoln, 596
Henry, 245
John, 401
Katie M., 596
Maggie 596
Margaret, 624
Mary, 624
Nellie D., 596
Thomas, 215, 220, 703
Thomas H., 208
William, 171
William C. 208, 215
REEP
J. H., 249
REES
Jane, 594
REESE
W. R., 774
William R., 208, 213
REEVE
James C. 665
Mary A., 665
REID
Roland, 212
REINULLE
Joseph, 90
REITER
Charles, 739
Charles E., 729, 731, 739
Charles E. Mrs., 739
Charles W., 739
Martin, 739
Myrtie, 739
William, 739
REMINGTON
Daniel, 201, 216
RENNICK
Mary, 539
RENTZ
Agnes, 599
Agnethe, 599
Amalie, 599
Christian, 599

RENTZ continued
Henry, 599
Mathilde, 599
Michael, 582, 586, 588, 599
Norman, 599
Olga, 599
RERSTAD
Simon C., 210
REVELS
Court, 513
Eddie M., 513
Ettie, 513
Henry, 219
Herman, 513
John, 513
John W., 513
Mary J., 513
Rev., 747
Sarah D., 515
REXFORD
Bradford, 51
REYNOLDS
Darius, 212
Joseph, 736
RHINE
Rev., 747
Sarah D., 515
REXFORD
Bradford, 51
REYNOLDS
Darius, 212
Joseph, 736
RHINE
Rev., 479
RHINEHART
Alvin, 545
Edwin, 545
Effie, 545
Estella, 545
Franklin, 545
Horace A., 537, 538, 539, 545
Lucinda S., 545
Mary J., 545
Rollin, 545
Sarah, 545
Sarah M., 545
William, 545
RHODES
Nelson, 293
Philip, 714
RHOE
James F., 208, 210
RHOMBURG
J. A., 739
RICE
Elizabeth, 676
Hiram, 116, 117, 123, 311, 321, 418, 516 518, 734
John A., 256, 537
Mr., 580
Owen, 676
Robert, 730
Samuel, 116, 117, 123, 124, 321, 516
Samuel Mrs., 122, 124
Samuel G., 311, 320, 401 420, 421
Stephen O., 161
RICHARD
Comfort, 307
RICHARDS
C. H., Rev., 765
Frank, 270
George C., 214
J. B., 269
J. B. Dr., 270, 688
J. B. Jr., 270
J. W., 270
Jacob, 212
Jessie, 270, 688
John T. 208, 761
Martin V. B., 208, 211, 215
Pelatiah J., 211
Ripley J., 213
RICHARDSON
Amos A., 208, 209, 215
Capt., 106
C. P., 176, 774
Comfort, 307
H. M., 202
Hiram M., 200, 201, 203, 214
John, 165, 720, 721
Joshua O., 161
Sol., 720, 721
RICHIE
Eliza A., 186
Eliza Ann, 736
RICKER
Crombie and Co. 262
RIDER
Benjamin F., 214
RIGGS
Edward S., 214
RILEY
Aaron, 704
Anna, 533
Arthur, 705
Augusta C., 533
Cyrus F. 705
Edward, 526
Hugh B., 705
James, 183
James F., 705
John, 211
Mr., 294
R. S., 244
Robert N., 705
Sarah, 526
Thomas, 183
W. L., 252
William, 528
William F., 213
William L., 159, 201, 214
William S., 533
RINDAL
Lena, 478
RINGLE
John, 256
RIPLEY
Horace H., 666
RIP VAN WINKLE
_____, 193
RITCH
William G., 52
RITNER
RITNER continued
Lieut, 107
ROACH
Mary E., 732
Wilton E., 732
ROBB
J. A., 252
ROBBINS
George, 202
ROBERTS
Bangill, 401
Benjamin, 509, 510, 513
Benjamin F., 208
C. A., 192, 694, 696
Clara, 510
Clayton, 510
Clayton B., 510
Edmond, 510
Edna, 510
Elizabeth, 510
Ezra A., 208
Henry T., 216
Isaac W., 203, 219
John, 311
Linn, 510
Lucius T., 510
Mary, 639
Milan, 510
Mirtie, 510
William, 510
Willis J., 219
ROBERTSON
Andres, 473
Robert, 627
Sarah, 627
ROBINS
George, 201
ROBINSON
Andrew, 526
Belle, 630
C. D.,44
Charles D., 240, 247
H. A., 176, 246, 247, 267
Mary 180
Robert, 667
S. A., 683
ROBSON
Alice, 520
Mary, 660
ROCKWELL
Eli, 201
John A., 315
John S., 35
ROCKWOOD
Harriet, 708
RODGERS
A. W., 514
Aldrich W., 201
J. C., 514
J. H., 731
Jane, 514
Martin, 147, 148, 149 150, 156, 157, 158
Myrtle, 514
Phebe, 514
Sarah, 514
W., 201
RODOLF
Charles, 245
ROE
Frederic S., 208

ROESTER
Charles, 343
ROGERS
____, 680, 711
A. W., 567
Adeline, 581
Aldridge W., 211
Amanda, 711, 712
B. H., 737
Benjamin, 220, 618
Benjamin Mrs., 740
Benjamin H., 226
C. E.,245, 261
Catharine, 708
Charles M., 737
Clayton, 146, 201, 712
Clayton E., 215, 216, 221
E. A., 711
E. M., 246
E. N., 221
Earl M.,201, 211, 220, 262, 686, 693, 694, 711, 712
Edith, 712
Edmund, 555, 557
Edward, 555, 557, 712
Eldad, 526
Elias, 555, 556
Elizabeth, 618
Ellen, 541
Esther, 725, 737
Francis H., 606
George M., 204, 212
Henry, 556, 712
Hester Ann, 618
J. H., 774
J. S., 221
James H., 208, 216, 218, 731, 737
James H. Jr., 737
Jeremiah D., 204
John S., 210
Louisa, 711
Marcia, 534
Martin, 153
Mary Ettak, 618
Mary Z., 737
Merrick, 204
Minnie E., 737
Parthenia, 618
Rebecca, 618
Rilla Belle, 618
Salem, 622
Sheriff, 177
Mr., 220
Thomas Newton, 618
William,161
Winnie, 737
ROGERS
and Williams, 318
Williams and Henry, 160
ROLETTE
_____, 336, 456
Joseph, 341, 342, 343
ROLF
Albert H., 220
HOLFE
Alfred, 741
O. H., 752
ROLLINS
Lawyer, 190
ROMSADS
Treo, 215
SOMAS
Karen E., 220
ROOD
Lois A., 501
ROOT
Eleazer, 49
Fannie, 610
RORERUD
Rhea, 478
ROSE
William F., 218
ROSS
John J., 215
ROSSEAU
Pierre, 90
ROTH
Ernest, 246
ROUANZOIN
Martha, 597
ROUSH
William, 208
ROWE
Frederick S., 216
Louise, 581
Mary, 302
Merriatt, 216
Merritt, 208
ROWELLS
Julius, 582
ROWLEY
Robert, 219
ROY
Sarah, 495
ROZA
Samantha Dorleska, 576
ROZER
_____, 176
RUBY
G., 202
Gabriel A., 201, 203, 216
RUDIE
Amalie Elizabeth, 699
Amalie N., 699
Hannah Marie, 699
Hans Myer, 699
John N., 699
Marith, 699
Nels J., 699
Nordahl N., 699
Normand N., 699
Theodore Amandus 699
RUGGLES
Julia, 759
RUNDLE
John R., 208
RUNDLETT
Dr., J. R., 270, 271
RUNNING
Ole, 481, 690, 694
RUPP
Peter, 246
RUSH
C. F., 759
Dr., 177
P. L., 159, 605
RUSK
Albert, 269
Albert J., 215, 622
Allen, 137, 141, 147, 148, 150, 214, 250, 251, 621, 624, 625, 774
Alonzo, 772
Anna, 772
Charity, 772
Col., 298, 623
Daniel, 772
Daniel, 268, 772
David L., 269
Dr., 297, 299, 553
Dr., 297, 299, 553
Elizabeth, 269, 486, 772
Hannah Jane, 622
Henry M., 214, 622
Hettie M., 261, 701
J. Dr., 199
J. M., 246, 248, 249, 258, 279, 281, 282, 283, 305
J. M. Col., 761, 762
J. M. Gov., 43, 131, 189, 262, 621, 688, 706, 764, 765, 766, 767, 769, 770, 771, 772
J. N., 624
James, 772
James Dr., 268, 269, 677, 684, 687, 701, 716
Jane, 772
Jasper B., 622
Jeremiah, 247, 252
Jeremiah M., 46, 54, 131, 132, 137, 138, 208, 209, 210, 221, 226, 243, 244, 246, 247, 248, 258, 267, 408, 761, 778
Jeremaih M. Col., 294
Jeremiah M. Gen., 283, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765 775, 779
Jeremiah N., 622, 684
John, 772
L. J., 191, 192
Lycurgus James, 772
Mary, 621, 624
Mary Elizabeth,772
Mary Jane, 772
Mary Martin, 772
Mrs., 776
Romulus A., 622
Ruel, 772
Sarah J., 269
Samuel, 772
Susan J., 269
W. W. Dr., 268, 269, 272
Willard W., 215
RUSK AND WYMAN, 193, 266
RUSSEL
John H., 66
RUSSELL
A. L., 308, 682, 693
Andrew, 220, 683
B. C., 111, 112
Jannette, 617
Mr., 293, 294
RUSSELL AND HEWEY, 262

RUSTAD
E. E., 495, 498, 502, 774
RUTTER
John, 647
Margaret, 650
Thomas C., 226
RUWALT
John, 166
RYAN
Edward C., 48
Samuel, 251
SABIN
Alla A., 671
Anna, 671
Daniel A., 671
David, 666, 671
Eli D., 671
Emma H., 671
John B., 671
Martha A., 711
Mary E., 671
Matilda, 671
Oliver C., 671
Phebe, 712
Rose B., 671
Sylvester, 712
William C., 671
SABINE
Alonzo D., 217
SACKETT
Charles A., 595
Flora M., 595
Mary A., 595
N. A., 585, 595
SACS
Indians, 444
SAGER
Samuel, 207
SAINT CLAIR
Arthur, 27
SAINT COSME
_____, 23
SAINT LUSSON
Daumont de, 21
SAINT
Maurice, 44, 449, 456
Pierre Mides, 87
Pierre, Mons, 89
SALENDER
Andrew, 212
Henry, 215
SALISBURY
Catharine, 515
Julie, 515
SALLANDER
Frederick, 211
Michael, 214, 225
William, 214, 225
SALLENBACH
Jacob, 569
SALLENTER
Michael, 213
SALMANAZER
_____, 360
SALMON
Benjamin, 219
Cutler, 219
Hester, 610
SALMONSON
Melina, 618
SALOMON
SALOMON continued
Edward, 59, 60
SALSBERRY
Robert S., 218
SALTS
Angeline, 575
Benjamin, 567, 571, 575
Elijah, 575
George, 564
Hannah, 575
Ida, 564
Janet, 576
Julia, 575
Mary J., 574
Milan P., 575, 576
Reliance, 574
William, 574
William F., 218, 574, 575
SAMPLE
Milton, 214
SANBERS
Ann C., 634
William, 634
SANBORN
Col., 207
SANDERS
Hiram, 212, 538
Matilda A., 611
Tillman, 539
SANDERSON
Bridane, 724, 732
C. W., 726
Clark, 724, 732
Clark, W., 724
Laura, 647
Moses, 724, 732
SANDFORD
Daniel, 213
Ephraim, 213
SANDLIN
James, 211
SANDON
Charles M., 752
E. W., 751
Elbert W., 753, 756
Ellen, 747
George T., 752
Hattie, 754
Lon E., 752
Martha, 744
Murt W., 752
Nettie M., 754
Robert, 248, 744, 747, 748, 751, 754, 756
William, 744, 751, 752
SANDON AND WHITE, 756
SANDS
Mr., 299
SANFORD
Francis, 116
Ira H., 208, 213
SANGER
Casper M., 52
SANGSTAD
Even T., 210, 488
Sarah, 490
SANTA
Ann, Gen., 716
SARGENT AND STUNTZ, 110
SARSON
Rachel, 551
SATER
Rev., 630
SAUBPERT
John W., 215
SAUCY SACK, 352
SAUNDERS
Dilman, 211
SAVAGE
J. R., 140, 141, 582
James, 582
James R., 137, 243, 245 315, 585, 774, 777
Jennie, 585
Thomas, 211
SAWYER
J. D., 142
Philetus, 765
SAXON
M., 582
SAXTON
A. B., 159, 582, 589, 593
Amasa B., 213
Anna L., 589
Augusta, 593
Augusta C., 589
Clement S., 589
David, 204
Emma L., 589
Jennie, 589
Maria L., 589
N. W. 162, 207, 585
Norris W., 171, 204, 213, 589
Norton F., 589
Sylvester S., 589
SAYER
Harrison, 204
Samuel, 204
SAYRE
Harrison, 211, 687
Isabella, 687
SCHIED
Charles, 221
SCHILLING
Amos F., 215
E., 251
SCHLOLMILCH
Mr., 569
SCHLONG
Henry, 150, 153, 154 155, 156, 157, 158 159, 252
SCHNELL
Fred, 571, 578, 579
SCHOENBERGER
Annie, 659
Annie C., 659
Charles, 659
Dorothea, 659
Henry W., 659
John, 659
Kate, 659
L. C., 646
Louis C., 659
Mary, 659
Otto, 659
SCHOOLEY
J. A., Dr., 268
James, 623
Rev., 608
SCHOOLERY

SCHOOLERY continued
James, 621
SCHLOTMAN
Fred A., 734
SCHMIDT
Fred, 731, 734
SCHNEIDER
Elizabeth, 609
George, 609
Jacob, 609
Mary, 609
Philip, 600, 609
SCHOLL
Hellena, 553
SCHOOLCRAFT
_____, 328, 357
SCHREINER
Christina, 718
J. K., 269, 718
SCHRIBER
Gottfred, 218
SCHRIEVER
B. F., 221
SCHRIVER
Benjamin F., 213
Christian, 774
G., 203
Gotfrie, 201
SCHUMACHER
Fred, 201
SCHUMAN
Rosina, 574
SCHURTZ
Carl, 243
SCHURZ
Carl, 777
SCHWARTZ
William, 250
SCOTT
General, 378, 636
James, 556
James R., 207
Jane, 544
John D., 208
Maj. Gen., 107
Mary, 665, 669
Mr., 345
Winfield, 52
SCUTS
Sarah Ann, 572
SEAGERSON
T., 505
SEAL
Edmund, 535
Emily P., 535
John E., 535
John H., 535
Julia E., 535
Paulina, 535
Sarah J., 535
SEALS
Daniel W., 213
SEAMAN
Edith M., 752
H., 577
Henry, 568
S. H., 142
Thomas, 492, 505
SEARING
Charles, 146, 666
Edward, 249, 250, 395
SEARING continued
John, 665
SEARLES
Abraham, 203, 212, 219
J. D., 688
William H., 251
SEARLS
Charlotte, 615
SEARS
Edward E., 201, 214
William H., 251
SEARLS
Charlotte, 615
SEARS
Edward E., 201, 214
William, 201, 216
SEELEY
Alice, 630, 639
Dempster, 630, 631, 639
Elisha, 401
SEELY
Charles Ernest, 639
Charles M., 639
Emma J., 639
Harry L., 639
Maryett, 639
SIEFERT
Henry, 116, 117, 123, 124, 401, 420, 744
SELBACH
Henry, 744
SELBY
Joshua, 720
SEMANS
E. L., 688
SENEX
_____, 129
SERLEY
Burr W., 215
SERRILL
Henry, 201
SETZENFAND
Mr., 323
SEVENEY
Etna E. J., 161
SEVERSON
Christina, 659
Mary, 700
O. L., 221
Ole T., 215
SEWARD
John, 226
SEWELL
Harvey, 208, 216
SEXTON
Amasa B., 208
Seymour
Horatio, 52, 247
SHAFER
James M., 45
SHAFTER
J. Mc M., 128
SHALER
George W., 212
SHAMBEAU
Adam Rev., 539
SHANBOUGH
Adam, 667
SHANER
Abbie, 697
Albert, 697
SHANER continued
Daniel F., 697
Juliann M., 697
Learoy S., 697
Martha Jane, 697
Martin Dr., 697
Mary, 538
SHANNAN
Charles, 178
SHANNON
William P., 215
SHARP
Henry, 147, 148, 149
Nicholas, 212
Nicholas V., 208
SHARPE
Henry, 204
Isaac, 204
SHATTUCK
Eliza, 642
George, 642
George W. Col., 641
Judith, 642
Mary, 642
Richard, 642
Sarah, 642
SHAUGNESSY
John, 538
SHAUNESSEY
John, 158, 159
SHAW
Alex P., 211
Betsy C., 599
Catharine W., 599
Charles, 514
Clarinda, 737
E. N., 586
Emily A., 599
Emma L., 599
Helen, 514
Henrietta, 514
Henry, 514
Inez, 514
J. T., 724, 737
Jane, 647
Jane A., 737
Joel, 725
Joel J., 143
Joel T., 141
Joel T. Mrs., 737
John, 514
John Col., 824
Mohn M., 208, 761
John W., Capt., 599
Julia Frances, 737
L. N., 586, 594, 599
Lewis, 586
Mary A., 609
Milan, 514
Mr., 340
Mrs., 261
Seth T., 737
Walter L., 599
William, 514
SHEAR
Byron, 577
Daniel W., 212
Ellen, 577
Emergene, 577
Eunice, 575
LaFayette, 575

SHEAR continued
G. J., 159
George, 575
Helen, 572, 577
I. J., 774
Isac, 575, 577
Jonathan W., 212
Mary, 546
Mary Jane, 575
Myrtie, 577
Peter, 577
R. Dr., 270
Susan, 574
T. J., 247, 252, 263
Thomas J., 137, 212, 567, 571, 572, 576, 577
Wesley, 577
SHEAR AND MITCHER
_____, 571, 577
SHEETS
Eliza A., 596
Emaline, 596
Erminnie, 596
Evaline, 596
Isaac, 596
John, 596
Mary Etta, 596
William, 211
William V., 596
SHEFFIELD
Harvey, 556
Samuel, 171
SHELBY
Miss, 528
SHELDON
_____, 764
Alice, 578
Edith J., 557
George, 141
George W., 578
Joshua W., 216
William B., 36
SHELL
Frankie, 723
John W., 214
Matilda, 630
SHEPHERD
Nathaniel, 204
SHEPPARD
Nathaniel, 215
SHERIDAN
General, 641
Thomas, 116
SHERMAN
A., 510
Clarence, 510
David B., 219
Eli, 509, 510, 514
Emma, 510
General, 209, 671, 760 761
Herman, 571
Mary, 510
Mr., 509
Moses L., 219
Nathan, 508, 509, 510
N. F., 510
R. S., 150, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 509
SHERMAN continued
Roseldah, 509
Rufus S., 211
SHERMER
Carl A., 213
SHEW
William, 36
SHIELDS
J., 117, 321
Martin, 539
SHIEVE
Hezekiah, 211
John S., 211
SHINGABOWOSSIN
_____, 361
SHIPP
Sallie A., 679
SHISLER
Amos, 532
Elias, 527, 531
Eliza, 532
Mr., 532
Nancy, 531
CHOCK-O-PE-TA-SIX
_____, 462
SHOEPP
Herman, 214
SHOLES
Charles C., 45, 243
SHORE
Ann, 510
William, 608, 610
SHOREY
Levi, 141, 142, 147
SHORT
John, 103
SHOULTS
Ulialah, 408
SHOUT
Mary J., 575
O. A., 564
Q. A., 575
SHOWAN
Caroline E., 161
SHOWN
Lewis, 721
SHREVE
Ada J., 541
Amy, 541
Armilda, 541
Arminda, 541
Caleb, 218, 536, 538, 540, 541
Caleb Perry, 541
Caroline, 538, 541
Carrie B., 543
Charles, 541
Charles F., 541
Eden, 537
Edward O., 541
Eleanor, 540, 543
Ellen, 541
Emma, 543
Emma C., 541
Ezra W., 540
Floretta J., 543
Harriet E., 543
Harvey, 543
Hezekiah, 537, 541, 543
Hezekiah A., 543
SHREVE continued
Isaac, 541
Isaac L., 541
J. W., 538
James H., 537, 539, 543, 544
James T., 543
Joseph, 541
John E., 541
John J., 541
John S., 218, 536, 538, 539, 541, 567
John W., 543
Langley, 543
Louisa M., 541
Lovica, 541
Mary A., 543
Mary E., 543
Mary Amanda, 541
Mary Ellen, 541
Minnie F., 543
Myrtie C., 541
Naomi, 540, 541
Napoleon, 541
Nora, 543
Otto, 543
Perry, 538
Rachel, 543
Samuel S., 543
Sarah, 541
Sarah E., 541
Smith, 541
Susan, 541
Susan Edith, 541
Ulysses S., 543
Walter H., 543
William, 537, 540, 543
William A., 541
William H., 543
William Smith, 541
SHRIVE
Ezra W. 215
SHRIEVES
Caleb, 201
SHRIVER
G., 203
Gotfriel, 201, 212
SHROUF
Julia E., 535
SHULT
Peter, 215
William, 213, 221, 666
SHUMWAY
Francis, 216
P. N., 694, 774
Peter, 528
SIBLEY
H. H., 41
SIBURSON
Anna, 161
SIDYIE
Eliza Ellen, 654
Ellen, 653
James, 279, 654
John, 654
Margaret, 654
Margaret J., 654
Robert, 654
Sarah, 654
Thomas, 653, 654
William, 653, 654

SIEFERT
Henry, 516
SIFERT
Henry, 161, 321
SIGBJORNSON
Hover, 695
SIGEL
General, 641
SILBAUGH
Abner, 721
Amy, 702
Catharine, 702
Edward, 702, 703, 705
Frances Elmira, 705
Henry, 702
J. J., 696
Jacob J., 702, 705
James, 215
Jane, 702
Lewis, 702
Louisa Catharane, 705
Lucy,702, 703
Luella Linora, 705
Mary A., 702
Mary E., 711
Nancy, 702
Philip, 215, 702
Rebecca Jane, 705
Sebastian, 711
Warren Haven, 705
William A. 702
SILVERMAN
Lion, 244
SIMENSEN
Johannes, 210
SIMONS
David, 629
SIMS
John W., 477
Samuel, 477
Theodore, 477
SINCLAIR
John W., 220
SINGER
Augustus, 204, 207, 215
Phillip, 204, 215
SINGLES
John H., 204
SIOUX
Indians, 443, 448
SISLER
Mary, 609
Paul, 609
SKILLINGS
Charles H., 212
SKINNER
Olivet, 636
Thomas, 214
SKIPPENS
_____, 303
Charles, 177, 178, 683, 684
Mrs., 774
SKOUGH
C. J., 150
SKUGSTAD
Jens., 484
SLACK
Adeline, 581
Carrie, 581
Charles, 581
SLACK continued
Harrison, 219
Nathan J., 581
SLADE
_____, 680, 682
J. E., 694
Rev., 557
SLAGG
Thomas, 210
SLAMA
Anton, 664, 667
SLATER
John, 215
Susan, 641
SLATTER
Peter, 211
SLAUGHTER
William B.,35
SLAYTER
John, 221
SLEBINS
C. B., 251
SLITER
Rev., 631
SLOAN
A., Scott, 45, 244, 249
Anna, 755
Eleanor, 755
Joseph, 755
Melvina, 186, 736
Sarah, 755
SLOANE
Susan, 650
SLOCUM
Abraham, 220
Charles A., 585
SLOGGY
Peter, 207
Samuel, 158, 159, 747, 748
SLOGGNY
Peter, 216
SLONE
Joseph, 110
SMABY
Andrew, 506
SMALL
Isabella, 639
Isadora, 639
James, 215
John, 636
John H., 215
John Jr., 636, 637
Mary, 636
Olivet, 636
William, 639
SMALLEY
Daniel N., 208
David M., 761
SMELKER
John W., 208
SMITH
_____, 344, 680, 681
A., 176, 221
A F., 215, 287
A.Hyatt, 36
Abraham, 215
Albert, 699
Alexander B., 216, 218
Amanda, 667
Amy, 612
SMITH continued
Ananias, 699
Angeline, 640
Antoinette, 699
Augustus, 215
Barbara, 531
Benjamin F., 523
Bessie, 581
Bibalonia, 524
C. E., 150, 153, 154, 156, 157
C. J., 686
Charles E., 616
Charles F., 634
Charles O., 616
Clara, 738
Clarence, 581
Clark, 203, 214, 734
Cyrus J., 214
D. P., 649
D. T., 657
Dr., 571
Daniel Elmer, 523
E. Rev., 222
E. C., 690
E. D., 111
Earl, 581
Eleanor, 541, 543
Elisha, 215
Elisha E. Mrs. 714
Findley, 214
Finley, 208
Fred L., 616
G. C., 52
George, 581
George B., 44, 482
Gov., 179
H., 221
H. J., 221
Hannah, 699
Harrison, 215
Helen, 699
Henry, 628
Henry H., 149
I. C., 398
I. L., 556
I. W., 581
Isaac, 667
Isaac L., 208, 212
J. C. 406, 495
J. H., 148, 149
J. L., 556
J. Montgomery, 251
James, 581, 683
James C., 500, 683
Jane, 515
Jesse, 286, 640
John, 523, 524
John L., 213
John M., 111, 112
Johnson, 677, 679, 681
Joshua, 113
Justice, 199, 712, 774
Justin, 214
Justus, 208, 286
L. D., 172, 517, 520
Laura E., 608
Leahvina, 640
Leonard, 500
Lieut., 345
Lois C., 658

SMITH continued
Lucy A., 616
Lydia, 629
Margaret, 712
Maria, 539
Mary A., 640, 671
Mary Ann, 712
Mary C., 500
Melinda J., 523
Mr., 222, 518
Mrs., 567
Myrtie M., 616
N. Col., 765
Nathaniel, 500, 699
Nathaniel H., 208, 214
O. C., 286, 287, 288, 293, 294, 686,
O. W., 571
Oliver C., 712
Peter, 628
Platte, 185
Rebecca, 161, 721
Rena, 699
Reuben S., 219
Rev., 407, 496, 582, 730 732
Richard, 536, 537
Robert, 648
Robert N., 201, 216
Ruth E., 616
S., 751
Samuel, 215, 630, 640
Sarah, 640
Sarah C., 658
Sarah N., 699
Sophia, 640
Thomas, 630
W. E., 250
William, 150, 153, 154, 156, 157, 523, 581, 582
William A., 605
William E., 43, 44, 45, 243, 246, 251
William Gov., 419, 765, 766
William R., 44
William Rev., 539, 667
Willie, 581
Winfield, 45, 245
Zachariah, 605, 608, 613
SMITH AND LYTLE
_____, 300
SMITH
and Treve, 166
SNEAD
W. R., 625
SNEED
Mary J., 182
SNELLING
Col., 94, 345, 354
Joseph, 353
SNICK
Mollie, 561
SNIDER
John, 720, 721
Thannel, 617
SNODGRASS
Joseph, 215, 220, 682
SNOW
Maria J., 610
SNYDER
SNYDER continued
Jacob M., 216
John, 149, 150, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 171, 219
John W., 219
Philip, 161, 401
SOLBERG
Charles, 718
Charles B., 52
Elias, 484
SOLOI
Betsey A., 526
Edward E., 526
Henry, 526
Ole E., 525, 526
Peter, 526
Thom, 526
SOLOMAN
Edward, 43, 44, 244
SOLONSO N
Johanna, 522
SOMERBY
Ja., 199, 200, 276 279, 280, 281, 282 287, 288, 293, 298, 408, 682, 684
J. H., 301, 307
J. L., 202
John L., 201, 214, 222, 227
Mrs., 304
SOMMARS
D. B., 624
SOMMERS
D. B., 159
David, 80
SONGSTAD
Christian, 690
SOPER
Alfred S., 204
Darius, 218
Peter D., 204
SORENSON
Anna, 659
SOUTHMAYO
Ogden A., 207
SOUTHWICK
A., 171
Ada, 520
Amasa, 520
Amasa R., 520
Amy, 520
Burnham, 520
Edna, 520
Ella, 520
Emma, 520
F., 220
Francis, 215
Frank, 520, 699
Frank B., 520
Helen, 520, 699
Juliette, 520
Lucy, 520
Maria J., 520
Marshall, 577
Mary, 520
Matilda, 520
Milton, 201, 520
Myrtia, 520
Nancy A., 520
SOUTHWICK continued
Permelia, 520
Sarah E., 520
Vesta, 520
SPAULDING
Clement, 267, 401, 581
Dudley, 824
Jabez Y., 212
Jacob, 421, 824
Willard, 321
SPEAR
Danford J., 213, 214
SPEARS
Wallace, 515
SPELLUM
Mrs., 701
Albert, 700
Anna, 700
Chris, 700
Elias C., 700
J. C., 252
John C., 690, 693, 694, 700
John R., 700
Libbie, 700
Nellie, 700
Oscar, 700
Sadie, 700
SPENCE
Miss, 553
SPENCER
Eleanor, 723
Eva E., 723
General, 199, 200
Isaac, 139, 140, 171, 240, 556, 580, 582, 591
John, 723
Mary, 556
Mary Ann, 591
Mary J., 581
Miriam, 723
Oran I., 189
William, 171, 227, 401, 580, 581
SPENCER
and Co., 735
SPERRY
Dr. G. S., 271, 729
George S., 216, 221
Orla Ann, 687
Osla Ann, 161
SPITZENBERGER
Jacob, 177
SPITZER
Edward, 626
Mary, 626
SPOFFERD"S
Creek, 96
SPOONER
_____, 765, 778
Phillip, 252
Phillip L., 60
Wyman, 44, 45, 245, 246
SPRADLING
Mary, 161, 589
SPRAGUE
A. W., 630, 631
Col., 209
J. W., Gen., 761, 762
Polly, 479
SPRING

SPRING continued
Esther E., 161
SPRINGER
Jerusha A., 643
Lars, 690
SPURRIER
George, 141, 142, 149 604, 605, 608
Green, 264
Greene, 243, 778
SQUIRES
Joel C., 54, 243, 244
STALEY
Charles, 544
Ellen, 544
John, 538, 544
Martin, 544
Myrem, 643
Rachel, 219, 544
STALKER
James A., 201
STANAFORD
Rebecca, 720
STANIFORD
William,720
STAPLES
N. A., Rev., 201
STARBUCK
Elizabeth, 627
William P., 204, 213
STARK
Allan, 723
Amanda F., 719
E. A., 275, 683, 693, 694
Ethan A., 146, 148, 718 719
Helen M., 719
Jeduthan, 718
STARKES
Joel C., 54
STARLOCHI
Rosa, 535
STARNER
Elizabeth, 219
Jonathan, 642, 643
Myrem, 643
Samuel J., 643
Sarah M., 643
STARR
Comford, 181
STARRICK
William P., 204
STEADMAN
Ellen L., 754
H. H., 751
Hiram, 208, 215
L., 202
L. C., 751
Levi, 201
M. W., 744, 747, 748 754
Maria, 744, 747, 754
Martha, 752
STEBBINS
C. G., 751, 752
Charles G., 158
STEDMAN
Alfred, 214
Horace, 219
J. L., 202
Levi, 203
STEELE
Abbott, 731
Alva, 731
D. A., 247, 731, 734
D. Abbott, 731
E. J., 184, 192
George M., 250
Mrs., 730
President, 688
STEELEY
Rev. Nicholas, 497
STEEN
John Jorgenson, 490
STEENSON
Albert, 758
Amel, 758
John, 757
Steen, 757, 758
STEIG
John, 484
STEINBURG
L. C., 553
S. C., 552
STEINMAN
P. S., 666
STEINMETZ
Charles H. 672
Dorotha Saloma, 672
Emory A., 672
John A., 672
Mary E., 672
Oscar E., 672
Phillipa F., 672
Samuel E., 672
William P., 672
STELTING
Alfretta, 513
Alice, 513
Austin G., 513
Bird C., 513
C. A., 513
Dederick, 510
Elizabeth,510
Elsie, 513
Essie, 513
Frederick, 510, 513
Henry F., 508
Herman T., 513
Lizzette E., 513
Loretta, 513
Oscar D., 513
Otto J., 513
Permelia E., 513
Samara M., 513
Sarah, 513
W. C., 144, 149, 150, 156, 159
Waldo, 513
William C., 143, 147, 148, 149, 509, 510, 513
William H., 509
Witto A., 513
STENSON
C., 693
STEPHENSON
Ellen, 701
James W., Capt. 96
Malena, 701
Mary Ann, 701
Stephen, 701
STEPHENSON
Thomas, 701
Tolena, 701
Torand, 701
William,527
STERLING
_____, 135
American, 644
Charles, 650
Elizabeth, 649
Harvey, 116, 117, 644, 647 649
Henry, 650
Jessie, 650
John H., 650
Lee, 558
Lee Andrew, 650
Le Grand, 115, 117
Le Grant, 321, 401, 420, 644, 646, 647, 650, 741
Levi, 321
Lewis, 115, 117, 144, 166 244, 261, 420, 421, 644, 646, 647
Lorena, 650
Margaret, 650
Napoleon B., 226
Olive, 650
Thomas, 650
William, 137
William T., 401, 420, 650
STERNBERG
Johanna M., 756
STETSON
Hulda B., 477, 479, 774
S. C., 477
S. E., 479
STEURER
Caroline, 570
STEVENS
A. G., 713
C. B., 725, 731
Caroline P., 729
Cornelia, 713
Eliza J., 676
Ira, 117, 312, 321, 401, 676, 724, 734, 735
Rev., 401, 405, 688
STEVENSON
Anna M., 533
Celestia, 591
David, 591
Effie E., 559
Elizabeth, 533
Ellen R., 533
Hattie M., 559
Henry A., 533
Isabel, 528
J. H., 275
James, 527
James E., 533, 559
John, 137, 249, 559
John W., 533
Joseph W., 559
Lizzie M., 533
Mary E., 533
Nellie A., 559
Sarah M., 533
Walter J., 559
William, 212, 225, 533
STEWART

STEWART continued
Alvah Judge, 194
Gilbert, 204
Waldo, 508, 509
STICKNEY
Cleora, 654
STILES
Abraham, 138, 139, 401 774
Abram, 117, 122, 123, 516
Emily, 599
STILLMAN'S
RUN, 95
STILLWELL
O. J., 294
Oscar J., 215
STIMBLE
Lizzie, 629, 630
STINSENG
Louis, 731
STOCKS
Elias, 211
STODDARD
Bessie A., 758
Charles D., 758
Rettie A., 758
V. A., 758
William P., 758
STODE
Frederick, 216
STOKES
George, 204
John, 204, 216, 492
John M., 203
STOKKE
Johannes H., 218
John, 212
John H., 212
STONE
Elizabeth,636
Mary A., 635
STORER
Austin, 626
Catherine, 626
Celia A., 626
Charles, 626
Emma, 626
George, 626
John F., 626
Mary, 626
Robert, 626
Wilbert, 626
William, 626
STORRS
_____, 97
STORY
Moses, 805
R. G., 536, 538
V. H., 725
STOUT
_____, 158
Adelaide, 624
Frank, 624
George A., 624
Julia, 624
McDowell, 624
Minnie, 624
Rowena, 624
Stanley, 149, 150, 252, 267, 621, 623
William, 624
STRAIT
Arza, 677
James, 774
James R., 536, 537
John, 677
William, 219
STRANK
A. K., 582
Edmund, 253, 582, 774
STRAWN
Amy, 714
David, 681, 714
Grant, 714
John, 714
Mary A., 714
Rebecca, 714
STREET
General, 107, 344, 363, 364, 365, 372, 374, 378
Joseph M., 369, 373, 379 380, 381
STRFETON
Jake, 498
STREGLE
George, 212
STRETSBERRY
Ebenezer S., 215
STRETSBERY
E. S., 221
STRICKER
Louisa, 519
Miss, 722
Silas H., 208, 215
William, 519, 688, 694
STRICKLER
Jonathan, 219
STROEL
George, 552
STRONG
Edmund, 139, 161, 580
Marshal M., 35
Moses M., 35, 45, 726, 727, 729
STROUD
Samuel, 215
STOUP
Mr., 177
STRUTHERS
William, 555
STUART
F., John, 437
Parson, 453
STUB
H. A., Rev., 162, 552, 553, 648, 694, 695
STUBB
Rev., 518
STUBBS
Rev., 505
Thirza E. 220
STUNTZ
and Sargent, 110
STYLES
Abram, 774
SUDDETH
J. H. Dr., 585
SUDDUTH
J. N., Dr., 581
John N. Dr., 268
SULLIVAN
SULLIVAN continued
James P., 218
John, 211
Mary, 542
SULT
Eliza, 524
SUMMER
Charles, 724
David, 724
Franklin, 724
SUMNER
Albert A., 216, 221
SUTHERLAND
Briggs, 219
George W. 219
Henry, 605
John W., 213
Thomas W., 35
SUTTER
George W., 203
STUTLE
J. H. Dr., 269, 270
SUTTON
Freeman, 208, 215
George, 202
George W., 201, 214
John J., 252
Susannah, 626
SVALHEIN
Carrie, 615
SVEEN
Christian E., 212
John O., 525
John Anderson, 525
Osten Johnson, 525
SVENDSON
Sven, 694
SWAIN
Allen L., 204, 519
Allie E., 554
Anna, 519
Cora E., 554
Effie A. M., 519
Frank W., 519
G. A., 123, 124
G. A. Dr.,404, 406, 407
G. W., 247
George, 552
George A., 117, 122, 401, 688
George A. Dr., 268, 518, 519
George G., 52
George W., 137, 147, 250, 553, 554
Hannah, 554
Hwnry V., 204, 519
Hobart F., 519
Honorable, 398
J. H., 215
J. J., 207
John J., 204, 519
Jonathan H., 221, 519
Josiah B., 554
Julia, 519
Leonard W., 519
Louisa, 519
Mary 554
Nellie, 553
Nellie J., 554
Permelia, 520
R. B., 519

SWAIN continued
William M., 519
SWAN
Frances J., 687
L. P., 506
Samuel, 203, 204
Ziba S., 208
SWAN
NAPERUD AND CO., 506, 507
PETER AND CO., 506
SWEENEY
Edward, 730
SWEET
B. F., 201
E. T., 806
L. M., 717
N. L. Rev. 733
S. E. Rev., 556,557, 733
Thomas, 567, 568
William, 203
William H., 201
SWEETE
Thomas, 219
SWEGER
August, 701
SWEETE
Thomas, 219
SWEGER
August, 701, 722, 774
Mary, 722
Mary Ann, 701
SWIGAN
Betsey, 627
Nels, 627
SWIM
Alexander, 497
SWINK
Barbara, 653
SWINSON
Julia, 652
SYLBRANT
Rev., 480
SYLVEMUT
Richard, 556
SYLVESTER
P. H., 773
SYVERSON
Anton, 482, 484
Ole, 480, 486
SYLVICOLA
_____, 263
SYMES
George G., 208
TABOR
Clara, 510
Clayton B., 510
Elizabeth, 510
J. C., 774
J. Clark, 509
John C., 508, 509
Lucias T., 510
Maria, 510
Milan, 510
TAINTER
A. G., 516
Anna, 522
Anson, 516
Anson G., 172, 321
Emily P., 535
Ezekiel, 401, 420
TAINTER continued
Fayette, 522
Rachel J., 516
Stephen, 516
Stephen G., 420
TALLMAGE
Nathaniel P., 36
TALLMAN
J. B., 221
William L., 221
TALMAGE
John J., 246
TALON
Mr., 21
TANNER
Edward, 338
John, 360
TASCAR
William, 405
TATE
Addie M., 715
Charles, 626
David O., 626
Ella I., 715
Estella, 626
Esther Amanda, 626
Frank E., 715
Frederick A., 715
George H. and Son, 526
Helen M., 715
Ida M., 626
J. H., 195, 258, 294, 677, 679, 680, 682, 683, 684, 686, 693, 694
J. Henry, 248, 249, 301 598, 715
J. Henry Jr., 137, 715
James W., 626
John, 625, 626
Laura A.,626
Margaret, 626
Mary, 626
Nellie M., 715
Owen B., 626
Pruda, 626
Robert, 214, 624, 625, 625
William L., 215
William S., 626
TATES
_____, 306
TAYLOR
Caroline, 711
Colonel, 103
Cortez B., 211
David, 48, 61, 210, 250
Dr., 273
G. C., 495
George B., 161
George P., 116, 117, 122 171, 401, 420, 516, 521
George W., 204, 214
Hannah, 161
Isaac, 204
J. I., 711
James, 161
James J., 215
John, 54
John G. Rev., 690
John W., 213
Lute A., 291, 318
TAYLOR continued
P. C., 495
Rhoda, 544
T. E., 221
William, 677
William R., 43, 240
Zachary, 30, 52, 106, 336, 380, 381, 735
TEAGER
Rachel, 698
TEAL
Clarence, 721
Elizabeth, 721
Lura, 721
TEAWALT
John, 401
TEDERICK
Didama, 752
Truman, 752
William H., 752
TEEL
Isadora, 639
John, 639
Samuel T., 641
TEETER
J. F., 578
TEFFRE
E. O., 506
TEN EYCK
Frank, 758
TENNEY
Charles A., 740
Elizabeth, 740
Gilman, 208, 740
J. I., 726
J. J., 724
J. J. Mrs., 726
Jacob, 740
Jeremiah J., 739
Lyman W., 740
Patience, 740
Robert W., 213
Thomas, 647, 740
TENNY
Charles A., 216
Gillman, 216
TERHUNE
_____, 674
Aurelia L., 773
Aurelia Louise, 279
Blanche, 704, 773
Ethie, 773
Frederic, 773
Judge, 297, 317
Julia, 773
La Torce, 773
Leonard, 301
Leonard B., 773
Mr., 323
Mrs., 323, 676
Margaret C., 279, 686, 773
W. F., 138, 149, 186, 190, 192, 195, 199, 255, 256, 263, 266, 267, 277, 294, 300, 312, 320
William, 162, 173, 174, 175, 181, 193, 390
William F., 122, 131, 132, 137, 139, 142, 171, 243, 244, 246, 322, 676, 677, 682, 684, 686, 694, 704,

TERHUNE continued
William F., cont., 734, 772, 773, 774
AND BULLARD, 122
TERMINER
_____, 356
TERRELL
Hattie E., 686
TERRY
Col., John B., 384
TESTER
J. A., 202
TEWALL
James A., 214
John S., 214
William, 214
TEWALT
Alice, 650
Alvah, 650
Edwin, 650
Elmer, 650
J. L., 743
John, 528, 646
Josephine, 650
Nellie, 650
Nettie, 650
Soloman W., 650
THALONG
Anders Olson, 552
THARP
I. F., 248
I. J., 250
Isaac, 248
J. F., 249, 251, 252
THEIGE
Edward, 695
THING
Wilson, 664
THOMAS
B. F., 540
Emily, 642
Evan, 204
F. C., 201
G. F., 249
George, 757
George T., 214
John L. V., 243, 277
Lucia, 258
Manual Rev., 405, 733
Martin, 353
Major General, 671
Mary A., 633
Mr., 123, 124
O. B., 137, 181, 244, 251
Ormsby B., 52
William J., 751
THOMAS AND KINGSTON, 147
THOMPSON
Adolph, 653
Albert Julius, 525
Alfred, 201, 212
Andrew, 525, 645, 653, 703
Andrew L., 110
Andrew T., 652, 653
Angeline, 575
Anna, 659, 700
Anna C., 700
Anna Sophia, 652
Benjamin B., 568
THOMPSON continued
Bernt, 690
Betsey A., 526
Betsey S., 524, 613
C. G., 568
Carolina, 653
Carrie A., 597
Christian, 747, 758
Christina, 653, 658
David B., 591
Dean, 658, 659
E. P., 582, 596
Edith, 597
Elizabeth M., 700
Ellen M., 700
Ellis, 689
Ellis P., 597
Emaline H., 597
Emma, 613
Emma Jonnete, 525
Ericson, 758
George W., 201, 211
Henry C., 217
Ida Maria, 525
Irving, 570, 575
J. H., 564
Jacob A., 597
James, 515
Karn, 653
Lem, 652
Lewis, 647, 658
lois C., 658
Luther, 525
Lydia, 515
Marcia, 515
Margaret L., 658
Martha, 597
Martin B., 597
Mary, 653, 700
Mary E., 559, 591, 596 597
Mary S., 653
Matilda, 700
Minnie, 700
Nora R., 700
Nordahl L., 700
Ole L., 658
Ole Nels, 613
Reuben, 201, 203, 212
Rev., 496, 648
Sarah B., 700
Scott, 645, 653, 658
Sever, 613
Shora O., 219
Soren, 613
Susan, 652
T., 701
Thea Chrisdine, 525
Thomas, 525, 613, 652, 700
Thomas L., 658
Thomas S., 653
Tolena A., 700
Torand, 701
William H., 204, 215
William P., 597
THOMSon
Alexander M., 45
THORESON
Carrie, 560
Christian, 560
THORESON continued
Edward, 560
Matia, 560
Ole, 560
Randi, 560
Regina, 560
Thomas, 560
Torger, 560
THORESON
AND Co., 484
THORP
I. F., 265, 266, 586
I. W., 582
Mary, 265
Morgan, 265
THORSGAARD
Olive, 714
Thorson
Charles, 484
Seven, 505
Theodore, 484
THORSTENSON
Ole, 480
THREVE
E. W., 221
THURBER
G., 203
George W., 201, 212
TIA-MA
_____, 364, 366
TIBBETTS
William, 527
William S., 176
TIBBITS
W. S., 684
TICKNOR
Reliance, 574
TIDERICK
Mrs. William H., 747
TIFFANY
Emma, 270
TIGUE
E., 582
TILDEN
Charles, 740
Charles, H., 208, 216
Samuel, 250
Samuel J. 52
TILTON
Carl E., 714
E., 159, 220, 275, 714
Elijah, 148, 149, 215, 694, 696, 714, 715
Elijah Mrs., 149, 711
Eliza, 714, 715
Grace E., 714
Hannah A., 714
Henry L., 714
James E., 714
Jesse E., 714
Lydia A., 714
Mary, 715
Pearly J., 714
Rebecca, 715
Sarah C., 714
Simeon H., 714
William L., 714
TIMME
Ernest G., 44
TIMMERMAN
Dell, 755

TIMMERMAN continued
Herman, 755
Hiram, 748, 755
Mertin, 755
TIMMIE
Ernest G., 252
TIMMS
_____, 765,778
TINKER
Dr., 177, 273, 294,
E. W. Dr., 199, 258, 293
294, 297, 298, 305,
307, 311, 680, 705,
706
Elisha W., 268
Jerome S. 214, 705
Lydia A., 258
Mary, 705
Mrs., 298
TIPPETS
William S., 172
TOBEY
Abbie W., 732
J. F., 732
TOBLER
Rachel J., 516
TOLLAKSON
Lars A., 695
TOLLEFSON
_____, 676, 680
Celia, 194
L., 195, 718
O., 680, 718
TOM
_____, 367
TOMPKINS
Andrew J., 214
TONEY
Squire, 220
TONGUE
L. L., 567, 572
Levi, 218
Levi L., 212
Levi N., 200, 201, 212
Levi W., 212
TONY
Squire, 689
TOOKER
Orrin, 204, 214
TOPLIFF
George A., 207
TOPTINE
Charles A., 213
James C., 213
TORGAR
Carrie, 522
Ellen C., 522
George A., 522
Jane C., 522
Johanna, 522
Louisa, 522
Maria, 522
Ole T., 522
Olena, 522
Samuel O., 522
Soren, 522
Susan, 522
Susanna, 522
Torgar T. O., 522
TORGE
Ole, 518
TORGERSON
Elias, 161
TORKELSON
Gullik, 695
TORKILSEN
Ole, 695
TOUGH
Jane, 573
TOURGEE
Charles, 711
Emma, 711
Sarah C., 711
TOWER
Thomas W., 137, 244
TOWNER
F. M., 682
Frank M., 715
Nellie M., 715
TOWNSEND
Calsina, 539, 544
Charles, 544, 545
Emma A., 545
Jane, 539, 545
Jonathan, 213
May, 545
Rachel, 544, 545
Rev., 509, 667
Waldron, 213
TRACY
Charles H., 219
TRAIL
Cora, 514
Franklin, 514
George T., 514
Harriet, 514
Nettie J., 514
William H., 514
TRAINER
Lewis, 743
TREAN
Joseph, 538
TRESEDER
James, 606, 608,
609
TREVE AND SMITH, 166
TRIEDER
Christian, 693
TRIPP
Alice, 572
Ann, 572
D. N., 567, 568
Drier N., 569, 572
Godeon, 572
Grace, 572
Mr. 183
Nancy L., 572
Sally L., 572
Sally P., 183
TROTT
_____, 677
Hannah, 730, 731
Martha M., 717
TROWBRIDGE
Mr., 299
Deacon, 307
H., 294, 683, 690
J. B. Dr., 268
TRUBON
Christopher, 210
TRUE
Vienna, 575
TUCKER
Dr., 272
William H., 137, 175, 243
244
TUEGEL
Christena, 658
TURNER
_____, 765
A. J., 64
Alice S., 622
Annie, 607
C. D., 622
C. D. Mrs., 624
D. T., 628
David B , 591
George W., 622
H. L.,79, 80, 622, 625
Henry, 226
Henry J., 51
Jeremiah, 622
S., 220
Sally, 622
Sophia 622
Thomas, 226
William, 622, 623
TUTHILL
_____, 319
TUTTLE
B. S. Rev., 747
E. S., 220
Edward S., 215
Emily, 26
Ezra Mrs., 755
Myron, 747
TWEEDY
John H., 36, 137
TWIGGS
Major, 371
TWITCHALL
Emily, 660
TYLER
John
UPHAM
C. H., 736, 742
Charles H., 731, 742
D. A. J., 240
L. B., 571
UPSHER
Harriet, 471
URBAN
Joseph, 664
UTLEY
William, 517
William L., 251
VAILE
Charles Rev., 732
VALENTINE
Hannah, 661
Rev., 648
Peter, Rev., 732
AND WHITING, 322
VALLE
Anthony, 731
VAN ALSTINE, 540
Peter, 213
William, 536
VAN BACHELI
Warner, 202
VAN BUERN
Martin, 38, 52
VANCE

VANCE continued
A., 321
Alexander, 645, 650
Alexandria, 645
Andrew T., 213
Charles, 650
Clinton, 650
Etta, 650
Frederick, 650
J. M., 158, 159
John, 650
John M., 275, 646, 650
Margaret, 650
Mary, 650, 756
Mary J., 650
Perry, 650
Sampson A., 212
Susan, 650
T. M., 252
VAN CLIEF
Leah Vina, 640
VAN DEAUSEN
John, 667
Myron, 667
VANDENBERG
Margaret, 773
VAN DORN
Evaline, 596
VAN DRISDEN
Rev., 509
VANDUZEE
B., 495
VANDUSEN
C. A., 221
Ellen, 525
Jacob, 525
VANDUSON
Chancy, 215
Joshua, 214
VAN DYKE
A., 585
Abraham, 590
Ann, 590
Rebecca, 585
VAN HORN
Mary A., 672
VAN NORMAN
Huldah, 515
VAN SCHAICK
Mrs., 767
VAN STEENWYK
Gysbert, 54
VAN TASSSELL
John, 211
VAN VLACK
Everett, 226
Mary, 700
VAN VLEET
Benjamin, 165
George, 534
Louisa, 534
VAN WAGNEN
Lydia, 678
VAN WAGNER
F. K., 147, 159, 712
G. G., 142
George G., 725
Sarah, 712
VAN WAGONER
Augustus, 524
Etta, 524
VAN WAGONER continued
F. K., 250, 275
Felix K., 211, 523, 524
Mary, 523, 524
Sarah, 524
VAUBAN
_____, 88
VEASEY
_____, 767, 768
VECLINE
August, 528
VERACK
Erick, 161
VERDON
John, 311
VERLEY
Charles, 214
VESS
H. A., 774
P. B., 718
VILAS
E. P., 767
Levi B., 246
W. F., 248
W. F. Mrs., 767
VINCENT
G. M., 552
Monroe, 553
Rose, 510
VINEYARD
James R.,
VINGE
T. J., 184, 191
VOISEY
James, 216
VOLSTAD
Andrew, 537
VOMBURG
Hans, 627
Mary, 627
VON RUDEN
Anton, 149
VOUGHT
Nicholas, 117, 171, 321
William, 293, 305
VUMBACH
Conrad, 626
Elizabeth, 626
Henry, 626
Jeanette, 626
John, 626
john H., 626
Mary, 626
Minnie, 626
Philip, 626
Rosa, 626
Sophia, 626
WABASHA
_____, 369, 371
WA-BOKI-SHICK, 382
WADDELL
J.,143
J. M., 144
Joseph, 143
Joseph M., 145, 167
WADE
Elizabeth, 698
Susan A., 698
WADSWORTH
Brig. Gen., 712
General, 261
WAER
Robert, 220
WAGGONER
E. B., 761
James, 210
WAGNER
James, 498
W. J., 751
WAGONER
J., 751
WAH-WAH-PECK-AH, 346, 347, 348, 354
WAIT
Mrs., 322
S., 221
S. G., 324
S. W., 694
Sidney, 747
WAITE
R. P., 731
Seymour G., 216
Sidney, 744
WAKEFIELD
Adelbert, 654
Alvin, 214
Charles, 654
Cleora, 654
Effie C., 654
Elijah, 214, 646, 654
Hiram, 654
Jane, 654
John A., 375
John B., 654
Lafayette, 214
Leonard, 646, 647, 654
Polly, 654
WAKEMAN
Ellen, 496
Francis, 496
Samuel, 495
WAKEY
David C., 218
WALBRIDGE
G. R., 204
WALBY
George, 245
WALDRON
Peter, 732
William, 731
WALKER
C., 755
De Etta L., 755
Ellen, 755
Francis A., 216
George H., 36, 98, 126
H. J., Rev., 648, 732, 733
Helen M., 715
Isaac P., 36, 47
J. J., Rev., 407
Joseph A.,217
Joseph Adam, 755
Judd Veasey, 767, 768
Katie, 755
L. H., 221, 755
Leslie, 755
Lindley, 755
Maggie, 755
Marlow, 755
Mary, 755
Perry, 219, 755
Reinhard, 649

WALKER continued
Samuel, 201, 219, 754 755
Samuel Mrs., 755
Samuel G., 216
T. R., 755
WALLACE
Elizabeth, 633
J., 302
James, 214
Jamces C., 201
Thomas H., 207
WALLAR
F. A., 149
Francis A., 201
Frank, 251
Frank A., 262
G. D., 251
George G.,252
Samuel, G., 201, 202
WALLER
Francis A., 216
Listen B., 210
WALLES
S., 203
WALLSE
J. L. Dr., 270
WALSH
George, 630, 634
WALRATH
Mary J., 705
WALTERS
A. H., 407, 688
Charles, 171
Isaac W., 161
WALTS
George, 143, 629, 666
WAMBURG
Henry, 607
WANEK
John, 211
WA-NI-GA
_____, 356, 357
WANKESNKI
Peter, 479
WANITA
_____, 358
WAPELLO
_____, 359
WAPILO
_____, 107
WARD
A. D. Dr., 767
Cincinnatus, 624
Julia M., 624
Loisa A., 624
N. D., 625
Newton D., 624
Sarah A., 624
WARDEN
Allen, 51, 52
WARE
Robert, 751
WAREHAM
A. H., 731
WAREHAM AND GARDNER, 147
WARHAM
Julia A., 738
R., 202
Richard A., 216
WARNER
WARNER continued
Elisha, 212
Elisha H., 212
Ellen, 577
Frank, 590
H. B., 766
Ham B., 44
Hans B., 249, 250, 251
Jesse, 147
John, 140, 144, 311, 401, 480, 744
Martha W., 590
Secty., 765
Valentine, 201, 214
WARRAHAM
Richard A., 201
WARREN
C. S. Barron, 761
Mary, 717
Mr., 567
Richard A., 216
WASHBURN
C. C., 43, 46, 63, 138, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 762, 763
Cadwallader, 46, 51
Ellen E., 270
F. M. Rev., 571
Governor Ex., 51
Lean, 398
Lona, 686
WASH-HOW-EN-DAH
----- 448, 449
WASHINGTON
George, 289, 757
WATERMAN
C. F., 567
Carlos F., 577
Catharine, 698
Fred, 577
Ida, 577
John, 577
Maria, 577
Melinda, 577
WATERS
Abigal, 581
Arbelle, 593
Buton, 593
Charles, 117, 321, 580, 581, 775
Clark, 581, 582, 593
Earnest, 593
Hattie, 593
Henry, 117, 160, 161, 162, 171, 207, 213, 580 582
Isaac, 580
James, 593
Joam, 593
Julia, 593
Lester, 593
Louisa, 593
Martha, 581
Mary J., 581
Orilla, 593
W. S., 593
William, 593
William S., 208, 213
WATSON
Amy R., 220
Daniel, 544
WATSON continued
Elihu, 544
Ellen, 544
George, 544
John, 544
Joseph, 211, 544
Lucinda, 544
Mary Etta, 544
Rhoda, 544
Samuel, 539, 544
Sarah A., 544
WATTISON
William A., 219
WATTS
William A., 219
WAU-BE-SHAW,
one leaf, 162
WAUDGH-HA-TA-KAN, 732
WAUGH-KAN-DECORRI
Carimanee, 381
WAUMARMARSAR, 374
WAYMAN
Chester A., 212
WAYNE
Anthony, 26
WEAR
Harriet, 666
WEATHERBY
George G., 52
WEAVER
Alfred, 515
J. B., 52
James B., 251
Mary, 515
Sarah D., 515
WEBB
Charles M., 48
WEBBER
E. A., 221
WEBER
Annie C., 653
Barbara, 653
Bertha, 654
Caroline J., 654
Christian, 654
Daniel G., 653
Elizabeth, 654
Henry, 645, 654
Henry N., 653
John, 654
Josephine, 654
Katie M., 653
Louis J., 653
Louisa, 654
Mary, 654
Nicholas, 645, 653
Sophia, 654
William J., 653
WEBSTER
Amanda, 753
Emma C., 753
Freeman, 537
Lewis H. E., 219
William, 148, 149, 158
William Dr., 272
WEEDEN
Abbie S., 690
Amanda F., 719
Cornelius, 630
Flora, 123
H. G. Dr., 293, 297, 299,

WEEDEN continued
H. G. cont., 302, 307
Henry, 212
Moses, 161
WHIGYLE
Owen, 401
WHISTLER
William, 94, 354, 355, 356
WHITCOMB
Achsah, 739
WHITE
Aaron, 141, 677
Alice, 737
Almira C., 679
Angie, 753, 756
C. F., 751
Charles A., 737
Caroline, 753, 756, 757
Cassius, 753, 756
Catharine, 737
Clifton S., 652
Edward I., 737
Elizabeth Davis, 591
Ellen, 747
F. B., 649
French B., 652
George, 629
Giles, 140, 141, 142, 143 147, 509, 744, 747, 748, 749, 751, 752, 753, 756
Israel, 677
J., 751
J. W., 751
James, 737
John, 305,
John F., 624
John M., 737
John W., 203, 216, 218 731, 737
Lorenzo, 744
Maria, 744
Martha, 744
Martin, 652
Mary E., 753
Nancy L., 161
Peregrin, 737
Pert, 409
Philo, 51
Phineas, 737
Purley C., 652
Rachel, 267
Ruth M., 652
S. S., 647
Sarah A., 652
Thomas, 203, 591
Thomas H., 214
Thomas W., 652
W. F., 294
W. S., 246, 255, 682
W. S. S., 245, 246, 293, 294, 693
W. S. S. Mrs., 302
William, 243, 629, 737
William F., 679, 778
William H., 214
William S., S., 245, 249
WHITEMAN
Almira A., 641
WHITESIDE
A. E.,
N. C., 113
Ninean E., 45, 112, 113
W. E., 113
WHITFORD
_____, 399, 765
W. C., 250
William C., 49, 251
WHITING
C. B., 144, 145, 200
C. B., Company, 135
and Carr, 734
and Valentine, 322
WHITNEY
C. B., 200, 730
Delia, 678
James, 214
John, 214, 646, 658
Luther W., 678, 679
Milo M., 216
Orsan, 214
Parley, 204, 216
Polly, 654
Vesparian, 208
Vespasian W., 212
WHITON
Edward V., 37, 47, 48
WHITTEMORE
D. J., 810
WHITTLETON
Robert J., 208
WHITWORTH
John Rev., 407, 495, 524, 688, 705, 732
Mary, 705
Mary J., 705
WIARD
A. J., 147, 271
WICKER
Rev., 497
WIEDEMAN
Charles, 116
WIDMER
Arnold, 758
Bertha, 758
Elmer L., 758
Franklin A., 758
Hattie L., 758
Nettie C., 758
WIDNER
Arnold, 751
Henry, 214, 664
Mathias, 214
Martin I., 214
WIER
August, 213
WIGDAHL
Anna, 627
Betsey, 627
Elizabeth, 627
Emma, 627
Hans, 627
Mary, 627
Peter, 627
Sarah, 627
WIGHT
O. W., 62
WILCOX
Ira Rev., 161
J. B., 725
WILCOX continued
J. B. Capt., 324, 736
Jane, 758
Joseph B., 161
Mercy A., 161
Sarah, 743
WILDER
Austin, 112, 113
George W., 213
Jane, 654
WILDS
Hezekiah, 212
WILKERSON
Thomas, 749
WILKINSON
Anna, 627
Bertha J., 627
John C., 211
M., 624
Mons S., 627
Samuel, 216
Wilbert C., 627
WILL
Huldah, 479
WILLARD
Jane L., 161
Jonathan, 226
WILLEY
Alonzo, 564
Caroline M., 564
Emma, 564
Fidelia, 564
Frolan, 201
Froland, 212, 564
Ida, 564
John,212
John T., 201
WILLIAMS
_____, 676, 211, 712
Abraham Rev., 539
Abram, 608
Anda, 711
Ann, 610
Benjamin, 116, 526, 683
Bille, 51
C. D., 526
Caroline, 711
Charles G., 46, 47, 52
Clarke D., 711
Cornelia, 258
Eleanor, 227
Eleazor Rev., 393
Elizabeth, 526, 607
Ella R., 578
Ellen M., 578
Florence V., 711
Frank, 711
Frank E., 711
George, 215
George A., 578
George H., 711
George J., 711
George N., 220
H. D., 171, 193, 248 267, 524, 680, 694
Harriet, 708
Henry, 519
Howard D., 711
Isaac, 140, 142, 581
Isaiah, 201, 216
Israel, 708, 712

WILLIAMS continued
J., 209
J. Corporal, 202
James, 204
Jane, 741
John, 207, 211, 526
John C., 211
John W., 509
LeRoy J., 711
Lizzie, 679
Louise, 711
Mary, 725
Miriam, 592
Permelia, 741
Prudence, 596
R., 568, 572
Roger, 150, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 251, 568, 570, 571, 572, 578
Sarah V., 711
W. B., 221
Watson, 578
William B., 215
WILLIAMS
Brothers, 526
AND ROGERS, 149, 318
WILLIAMSON
Blanche, 590
George, 590, 591
Hettie, 590, 591
Irwin, 590
Lloyd, 590
WILLS
Cassie, 585
WILMOT
Allen, 155, 156
WILSON
Alexander, 45, 250, 251
Amarilla White, 290
Attorney General, 765
Capt., 291
Catherine, 626
Clinton, 290, 291
D. W. C., 204, 289
DeWitt Clinton Mrs. 290
Frank, 291
James, 290
James A., 291
Jane, 593
Jemima, 161, 607
Lute A. Mrs. 290
Morrison, 167, 629
Orrin D., 216
Robert, 251, 603, 604, 605, 607, 624, 774
Samuel Lee, 599
Theodore, 593
W. Mrs., 767
W. C. Dr., 299
WILT
David, 141, 142, 149, 482
WILTSE
Samuel C., 111, 112
WINANS
John, 47
WINN
Wallace, 226
WINNEBAGO INDIANS, 440
WINNESHIEK
_____, 345, 374, 378
WIN-O-A-SHE-KAN
_____, 372
WINSLOW
A., 270, 571
Aaron Dr., 270, 550, 571 575
Albert
E. M., 550
Edward, 575
Edwin, 575
Edwin M., 211, 575
Ella Z., 575
Frances, 575
L. B. T., 573, 575
Loring B. T., 575
Marietta, 573, 575
Vienna, 571, 575
WINSON
J. C., 751
WINSOR
Chauncey A., 758
Jason C., 758
Hiram R., 758
Lucy M., 758
Ora, 758
WINTER
Anthony, 212
N. W., 681
WINTERS
Joel, 215
Nelson W., 215
WIRT
J. D. Dr., 718
WIRZ
_____, 192, 730
WISE
_____, 682
Albert, 623
Alice, 623
Belle, 623
Cora, 623
Daniel, 524
Daniel Mrs., 255
David, 622, 623
E., 317
Elmer, 623
Emanuel, 681, 682
G. W., 150, 153, 156, 157, 621
George W., 213, 214, 622
Henry C., 208
Lucretia, 622
Mary, 524
Mary E., 622
Melinda, 622
Melissa, 623
Myrtie, 623
Olive, 623
Violet, 623
William, 623
WISEL
Ira, 185, 208, 215
O., 138, 140
Orin, 115, 116, 122, 160, 161, 226, 240, 311 321, 322, 421, 600, 605 606, 608, 676, 683
Orrin, 138, 139, 162, 164, 171, 172, 256
WISEL continued
Phebe, 520
WISELL
Ira, 185, 736
WISEMAN
G. W. Mrs., 630
Nancy C., 182
Mr., 182
WITCRAFT
Benjamin I., 214
WITHERBY
I. C., 246
WIXCOX
Ira, 517
WODVYNSKY
Peter, 774
WOLCOTT
Dr., 363
WOLF
General, 338
Master, 452
WOLFE
G. W., 287
WOLFORD
M. J., 625
WOOD
Alexander, 571
Ann, 193
Anna, 596
Anna L., 591
Armer L., 216
C. L., 591, 596
Charles L., 596
Dr., 362
Elder, 123, 405, 407
Jeanette, 181
John, 216
Jonathan, 596
Joseph, 201, 211, 607
L. J. Mrs., 582
Milton R., 212
Minnie, 596
Nellie, 596
R. R., 688
Rachel, 594
Sarah, 596
Winnie, 596
WOODBURY
Charles L., 731
Emergene, 577
WOODMANSEE
Samuel H., 741
WOODS
A., 246
Alexander, 137
Franklin, 499
Louisa, 514
Minerva, 750
Mr., 89, 90
WOODWARD
Arnold, 754
G. M., 138, 252
WOODWORTH
S. D., 204
WOOLEY
L. N. Rev., 496
WOOSTER
Loisa A., 624
WORDS
Joseph, 216
WORTH

WORTH continued
A. R., 729
Addison, 730
C. B., 324
C. D., 200, 730
C. M., 729
Capt., 324
Dr., 730
F. Dr., 271
WORTHY
Dr., 270, 271
WRIGHT
A. O., 68
By, 289, 290
C. 203
Caleb, 201, 202
Charles, 689
Hiram A., 49, 56, 137
Isaac, 172
J. N., 247, 267
Mary, 607
Mr., 585
N., 396
Polly S., 161
Rev., 690
Robert W., 240
Sarah A., 161
William, 211
WYATT
H. H., 150, 250, 631, 680
Henry H., 137
WYBURN
William, 733
WYMAN
Bernard M., 194
C. C., 202
Chester A., 201, 212, 220
Egbert, 250, 266,571
Elliott, 577
Emma, 194
Mr., 568
O. B., 192, 193, 194, 249, 250, 252, 263, 267, 275, 686, 694
O. B. Mrs., 570
WYO-BE-GAH
_____, 444, 446
YANKEE
David C., 208, 210
YAKEY
Byron, 501
Clara, 501
D. C., 251, 500
David, 137
Hattie, 501
Ira, 501
Jacob, 501
Julia, 501
Laura, 501
Lucy, 501
Luna, 501
Samuel D., 215
YELLER
Elizabeth, 573
YOCUM
Enoch, 741
YORK
YORK continued
Oliver M., 761
YOUNG
Alexander, 732, 736
D. K., Rev., 667
E. K., Rev., 539, 648
E. W., 249
James, 204
Mary, 736
William, 211
YOURS
Miss, 591
ZABOLIE
Albert, 529, 535
August, 535
Rosa, 535
ZEGER
Alh, 757
ZABOLIO
Albert, 183
August, 183
ZINK
Anna, 478
Charles, 478
Frank, 478
George, 478
Joe, 478
John, 478
Mary, 478
Rhoda, 478
Sarah, 478
ZITZNER
_____, 683